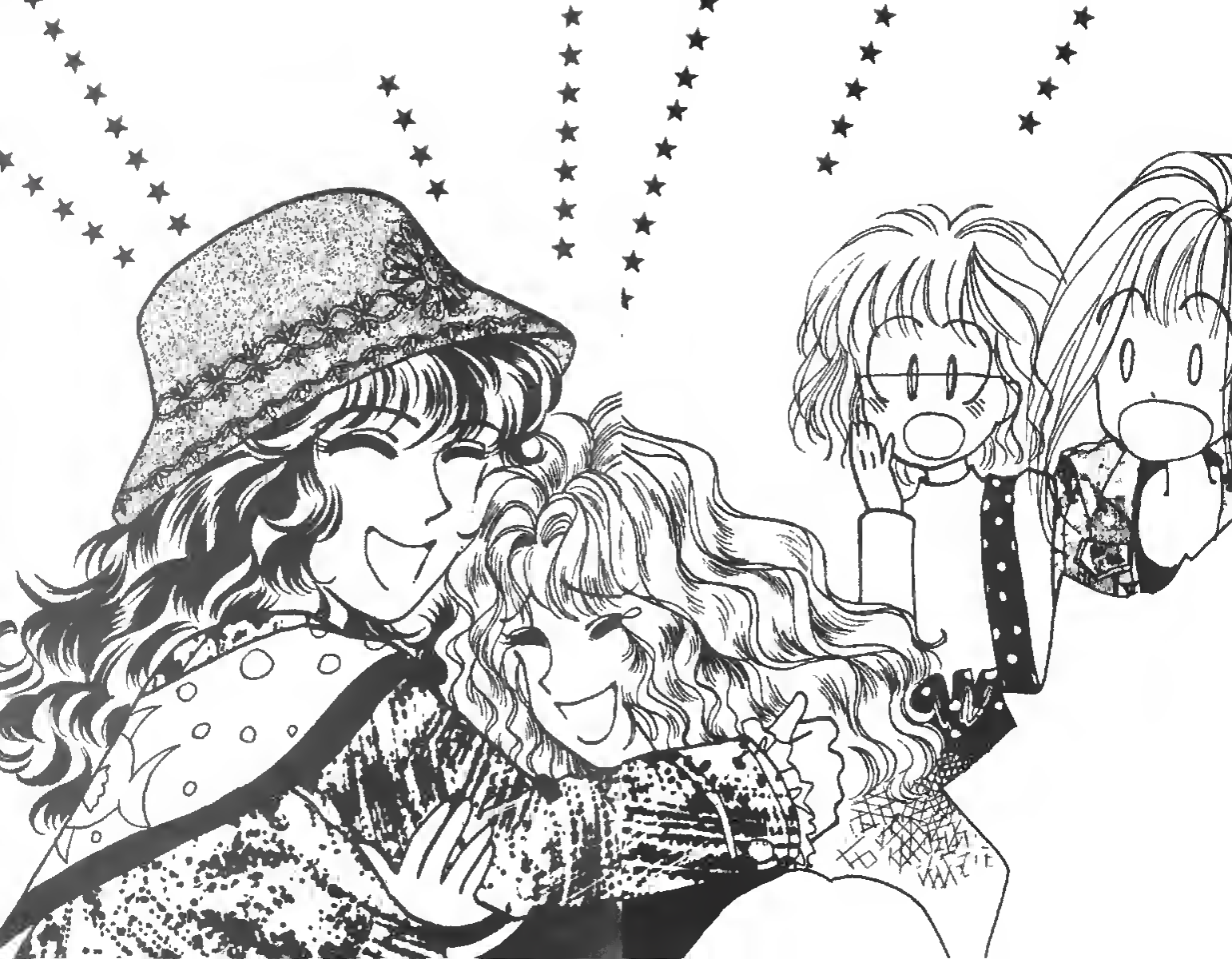
Book One

# Just a Girl

Story and Art by

## Tomoko Taniguchi

The creator of AQUARIUM and PRINCESS PRINCE



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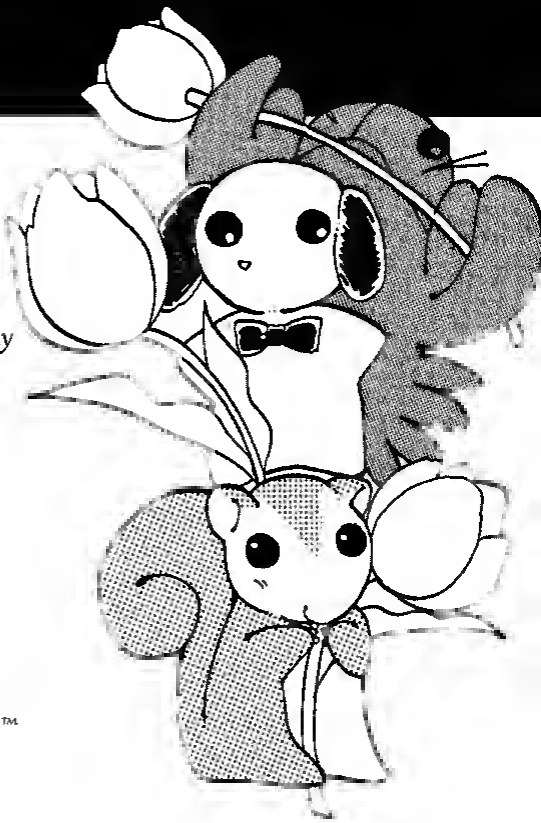

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Book One

# Just a Girl

Tomoko Taniguchi
Writer and Artist

CPM MANGA
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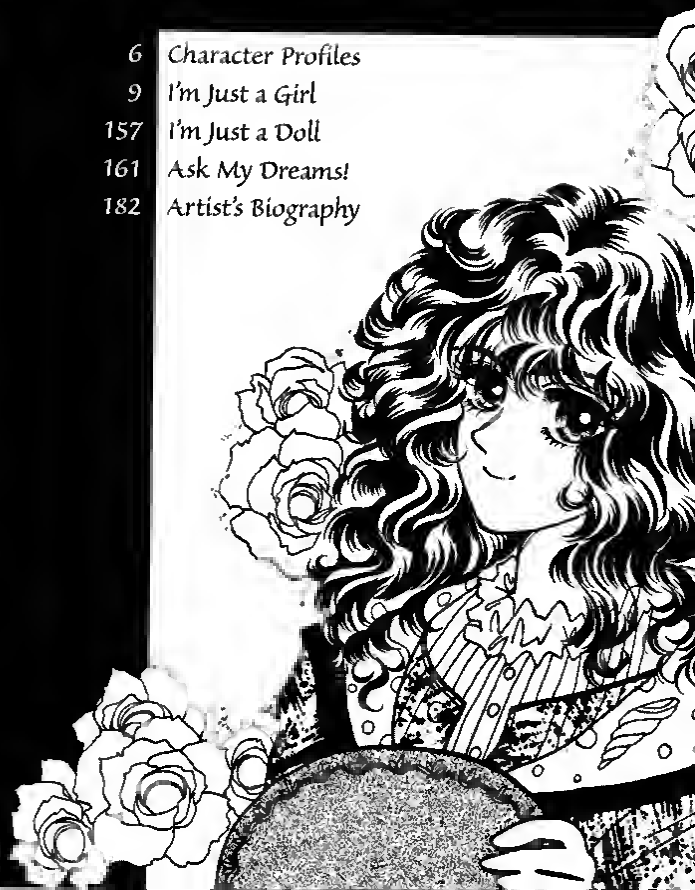


# Character Profiles

## Erica Fujita

Erica was accepted to an exclusive and prestigious high school. That's great for her, but it's too bad that her parents had to move away! Now she's away from home for the first time in her life, with only her plushies to keep her company. Will Erica make friends and be successful?

# Rena Kamachi

When Erica moved into the dorm, the first person she met was Rena. Rena looks older and doesn't seem very friendly. Perhaps there's something in her past that she is hiding.

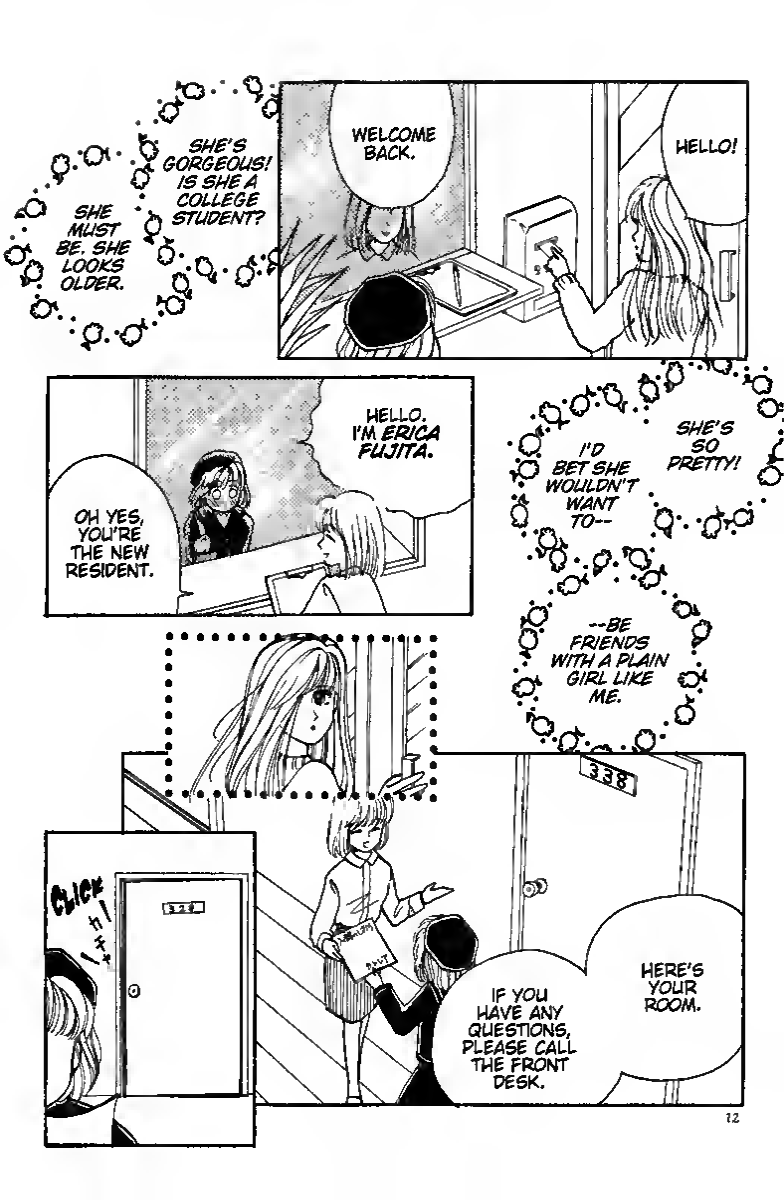
# Minoru

Erica's next-door neighbor has always been a great friend. He's been like a big brother to Erica, but will he be able to continue being there for her as they grow up?

# I'm Just A Girl

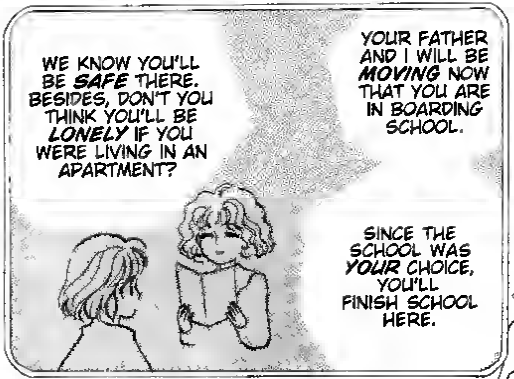
STARTING TODAY--
--THIS WILL BE MY NEW HOME.
WILL I MAKE NEW FRIENDS?
I HOPE THE OTHER STUDENTS AREN'T TOO MEAN...
I'LL BE FINE.
YOU GUYS ARE STILL WITH ME.

CHECK IT OUT, SANTARO!
SECURITY CAMERAS! LET'S WAVE TO THEM!
CATTLEYA
カトレア
WOW!
SHE MUST LIVE HERE.
COMING IN? HERE YOU GO.
OH! THANKS.

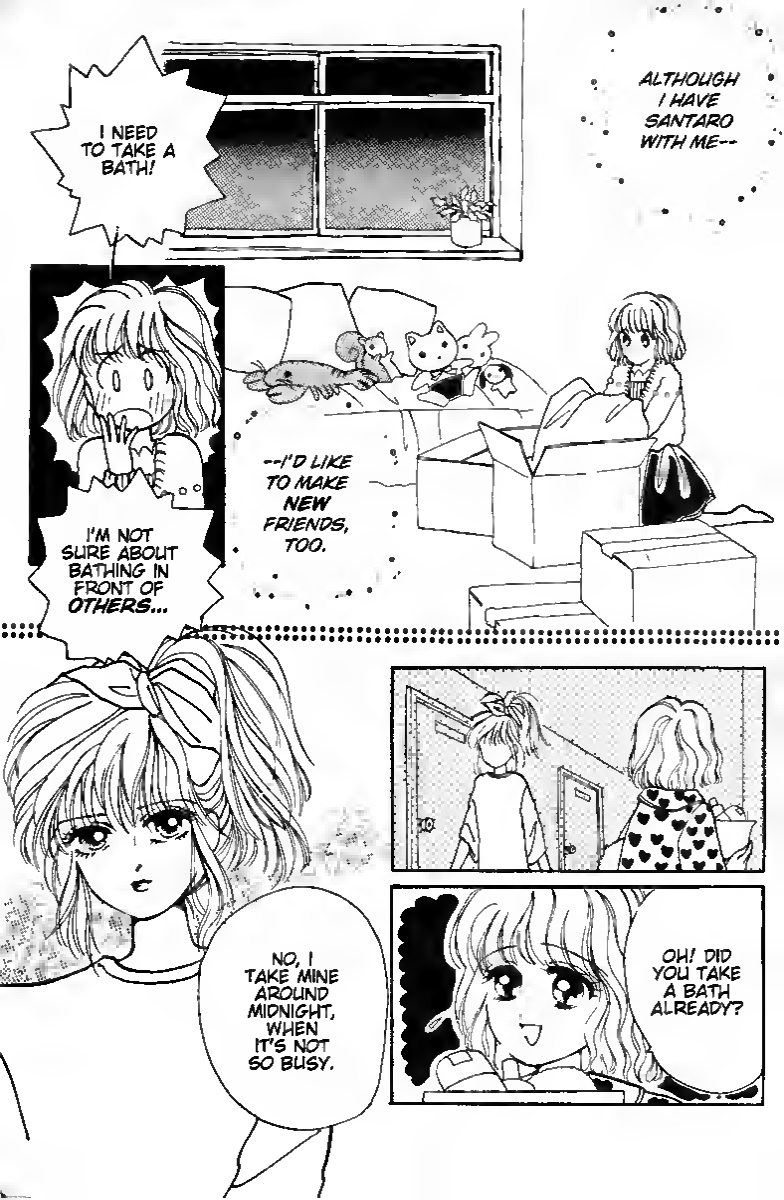

WELCOME BACK.
HELLO!
SHE'S GORGEOUS! IS SHE A COLLEGE STUDENT?
SHE MUST BE. SHE LOOKS OLDER.
HELLO. I'M ERICA FUJITA.
OH YES, YOU'RE THE NEW RESIDENT.
SHE'S SO PRETTY!
I'D BET SHE WOULDN'T WANT TO--
--BE FRIENDS WITH A PLAIN GIRL LIKE ME.
338
HERE'S YOUR ROOM.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE FRONT DESK.
CLICK
カチャ!
338

SHE LIVES ACROSS FROM ME! COOL!
HI, I'M ERICA FUJITA.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
THE PRETTY GIRL!!
WHAT-EVER.
...
DINING HALL
THAT DIDN'T GO TOO WELL.
I DON'T THINK SHE LIKES ME, SANTARO.

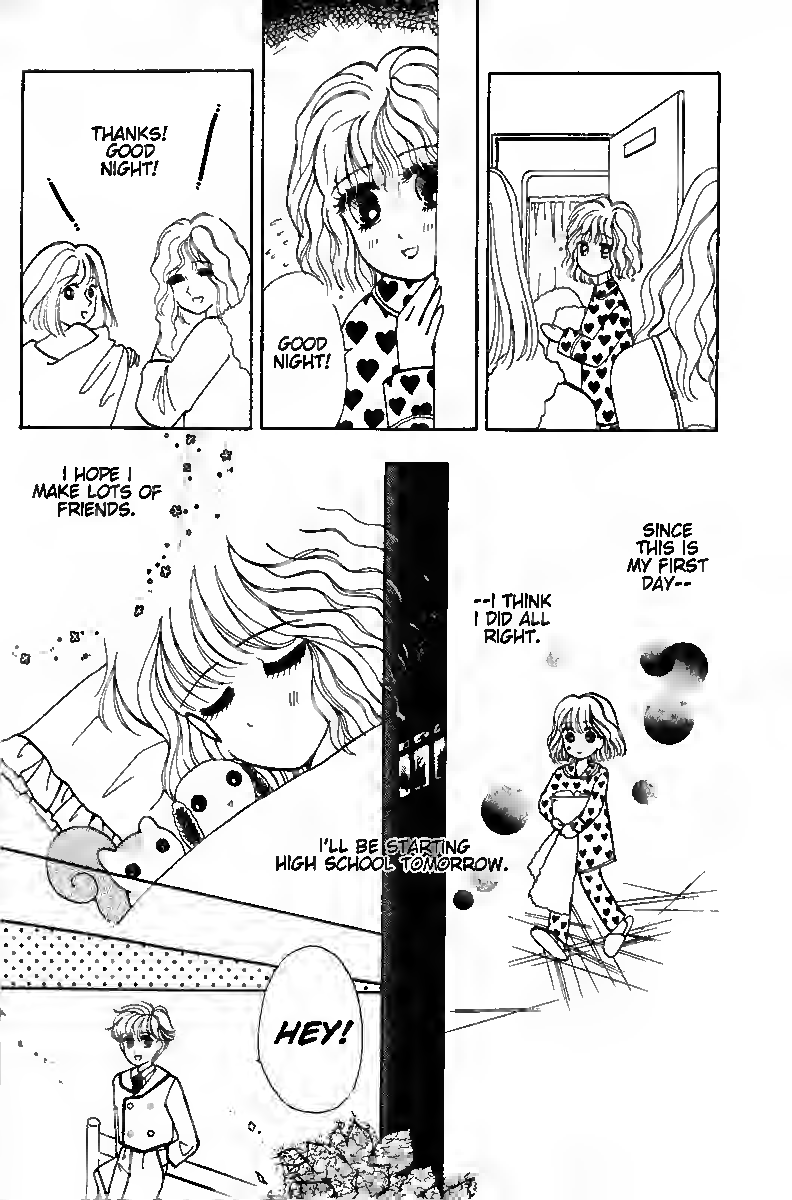
YAK YAK わいわい
YAK わい
FOOD DOESN'T TASTE AS GOOD WHEN YOU'RE EATING ALONE.
I'D BET MOM AND DAD ARE EATING DINNER, TOO.

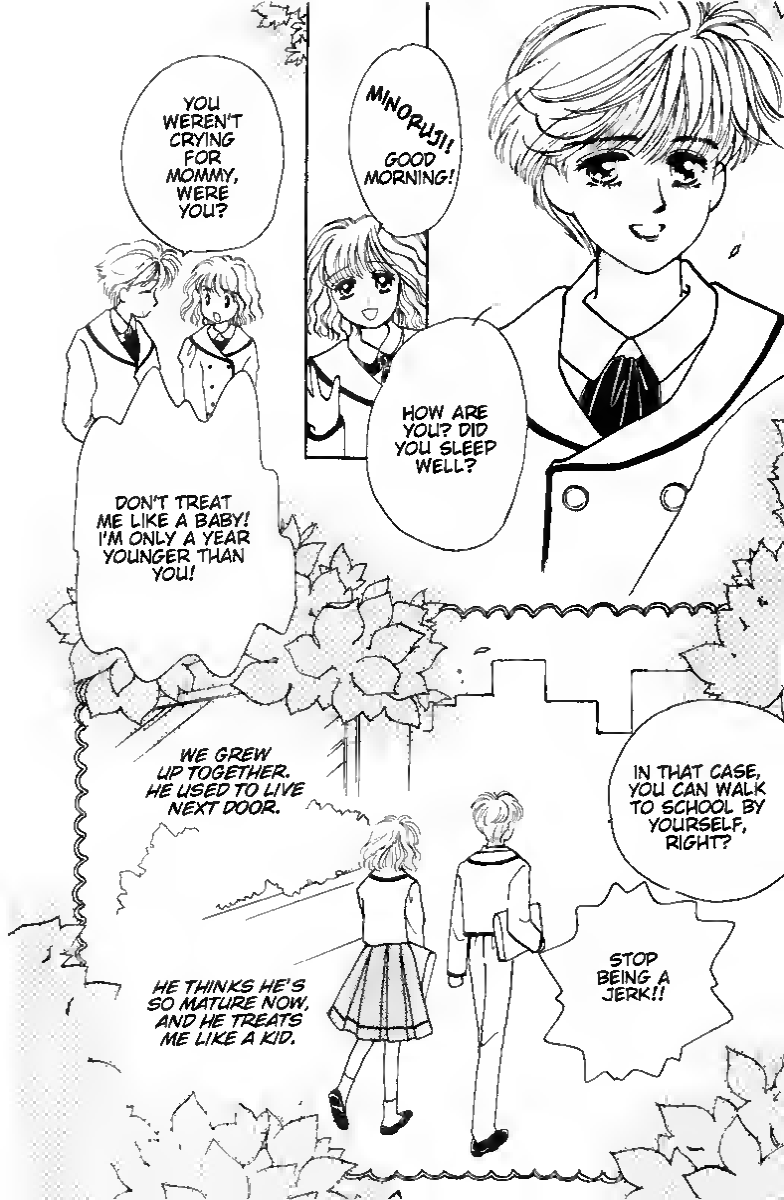

WE KNOW YOU'LL BE SAFE THERE. BESIDES, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'LL BE LONELY IF YOU WERE LIVING IN AN APARTMENT?
YOUR FATHER AND I WILL BE MOVING NOW THAT YOU ARE IN BOARDING SCHOOL.
SINCE THE SCHOOL WAS YOUR CHOICE, YOU'LL FINISH SCHOOL HERE.

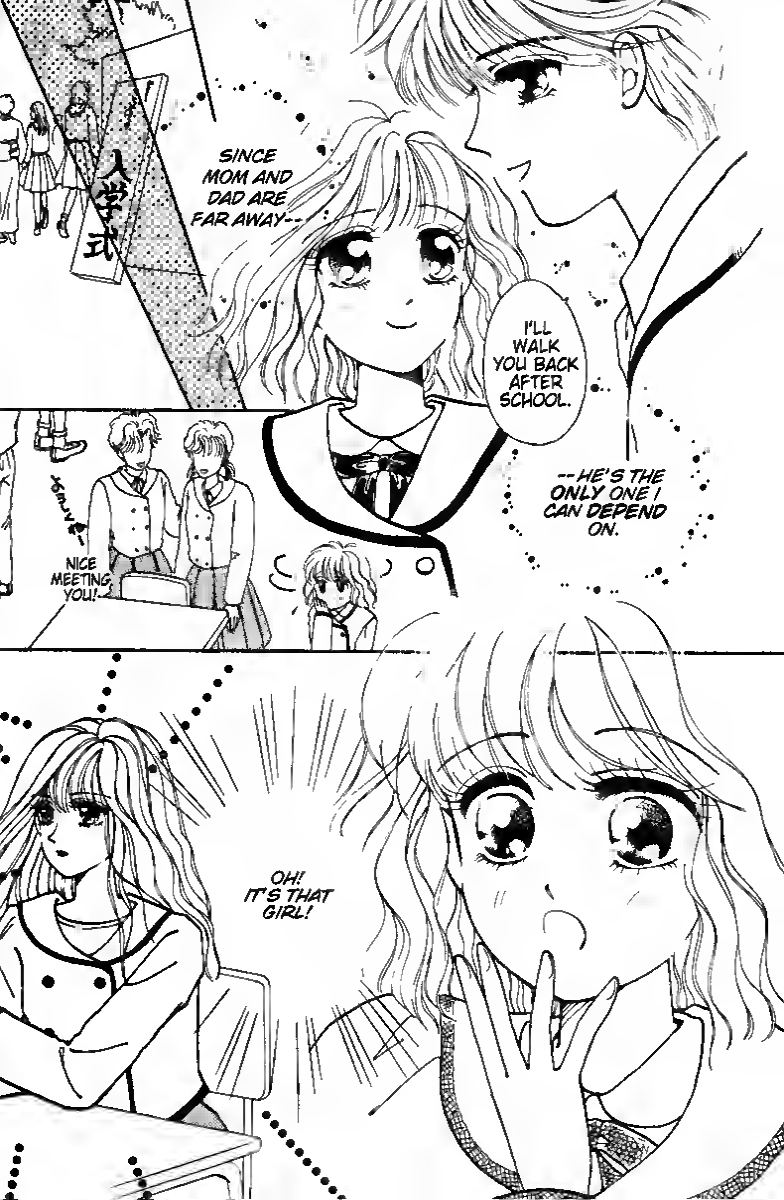
I'M LONELY.

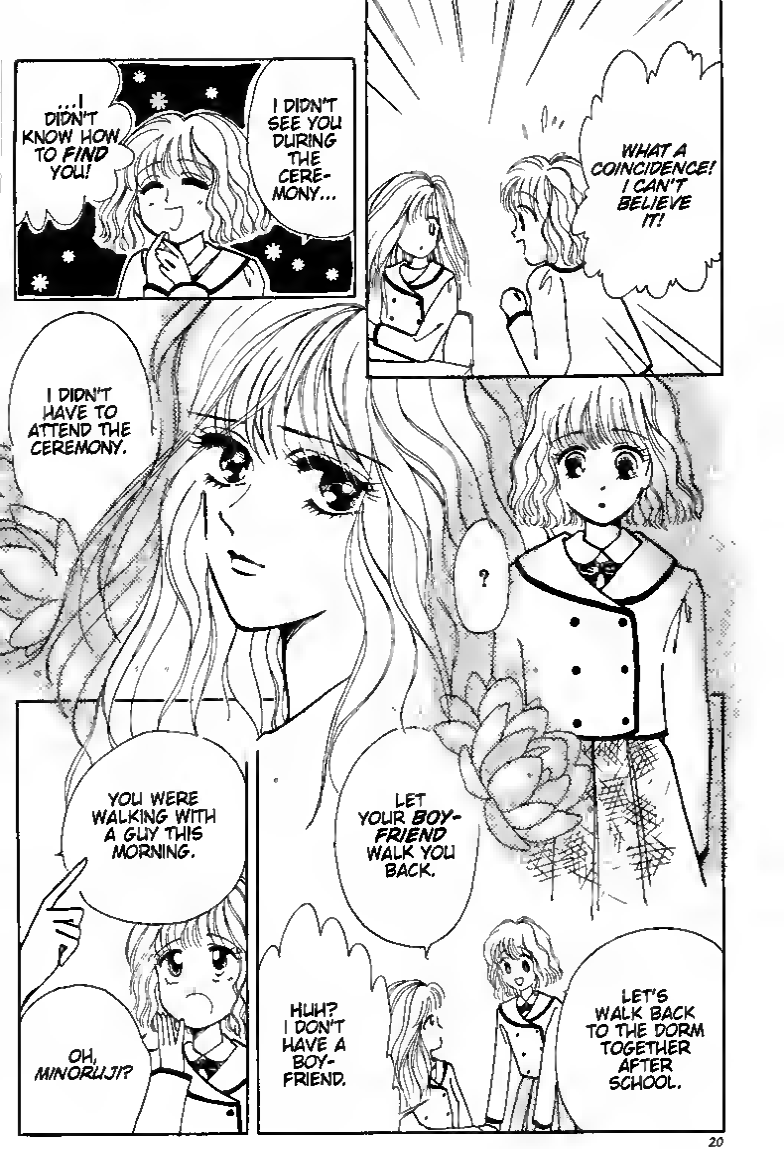

I NEED TO TAKE A BATH!
ALTHOUGH I HAVE SANTARO WITH ME--
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT BATHING IN FRONT OF OTHERS...
--I'D LIKE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, TOO.
NO, I TAKE MINE AROUND MIDNIGHT, WHEN IT'S NOT SO BUSY.
OH! DID YOU TAKE A BATH ALREADY?

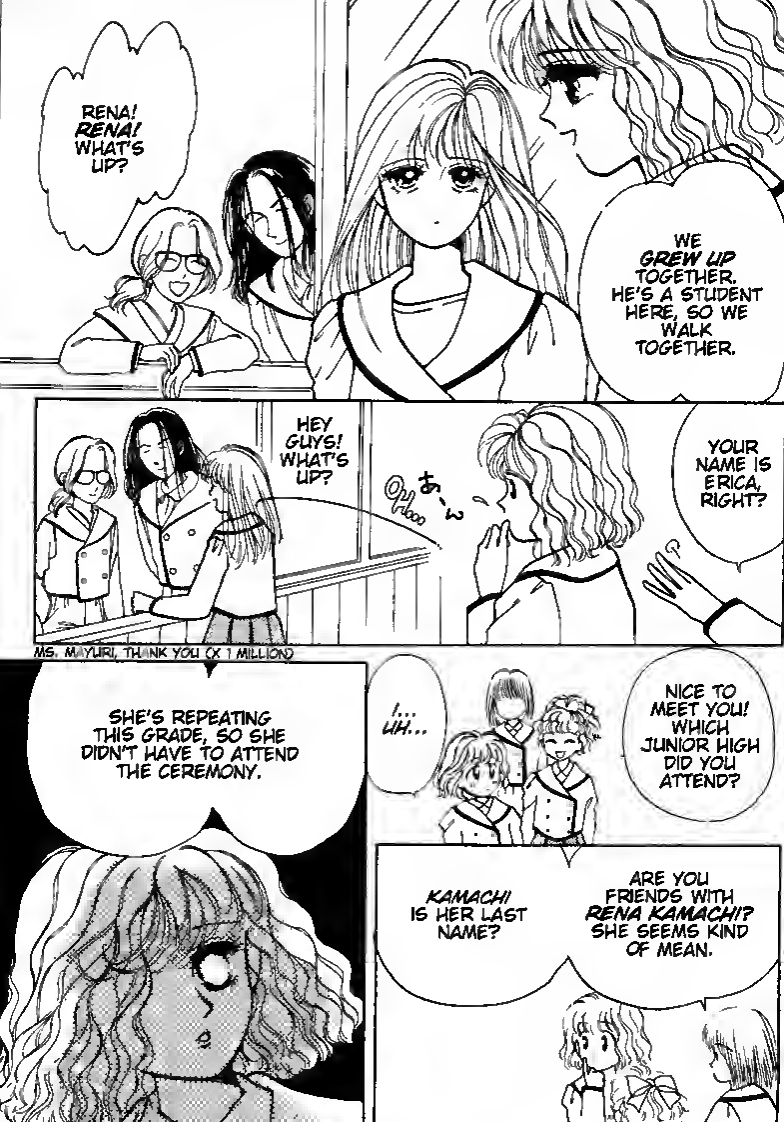
CLICK
I DON'T CARE.
BUT THE RULES SAY THAT YOU CAN'T TAKE ONE AFTER 11:30!
PA-THUMP
ピタ…
そそくさ
HURRY HURRY
SCRUB SCRUB
I'M DONE! GOOD NIGHT!
GOOD NIGHT!
GOOD NIGHT!
せっせか
RUSH RUSH

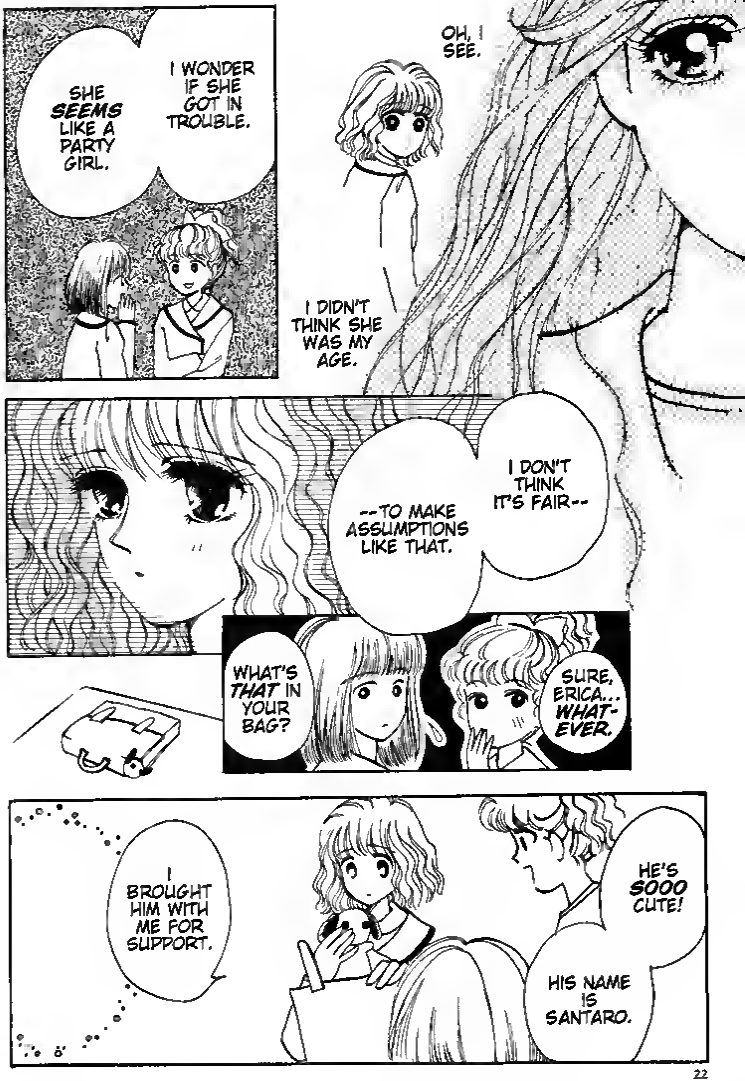

THANKS! GOOD NIGHT!
GOOD NIGHT!
I HOPE I MAKE LOTS OF FRIENDS.
SINCE THIS IS MY FIRST DAY--
--I THINK I DID ALL RIGHT.
I'LL BE STARTING HIGH SCHOOL TOMORROW.
HEY!


MINORUJI! GOOD MORNING!
HOW ARE YOU? DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
YOU WEREN'T CRYING FOR MOMMY, WERE YOU?
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A BABY! I'M ONLY A YEAR YOUNGER THAN YOU!
WE GREW UP TOGETHER. HE USED TO LIVE NEXT DOOR.
HE THINKS HE'S SO MATURE NOW, AND HE TREATS ME LIKE A KID.
IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN WALK TO SCHOOL BY YOURSELF, RIGHT?
STOP BEING A JERK!!

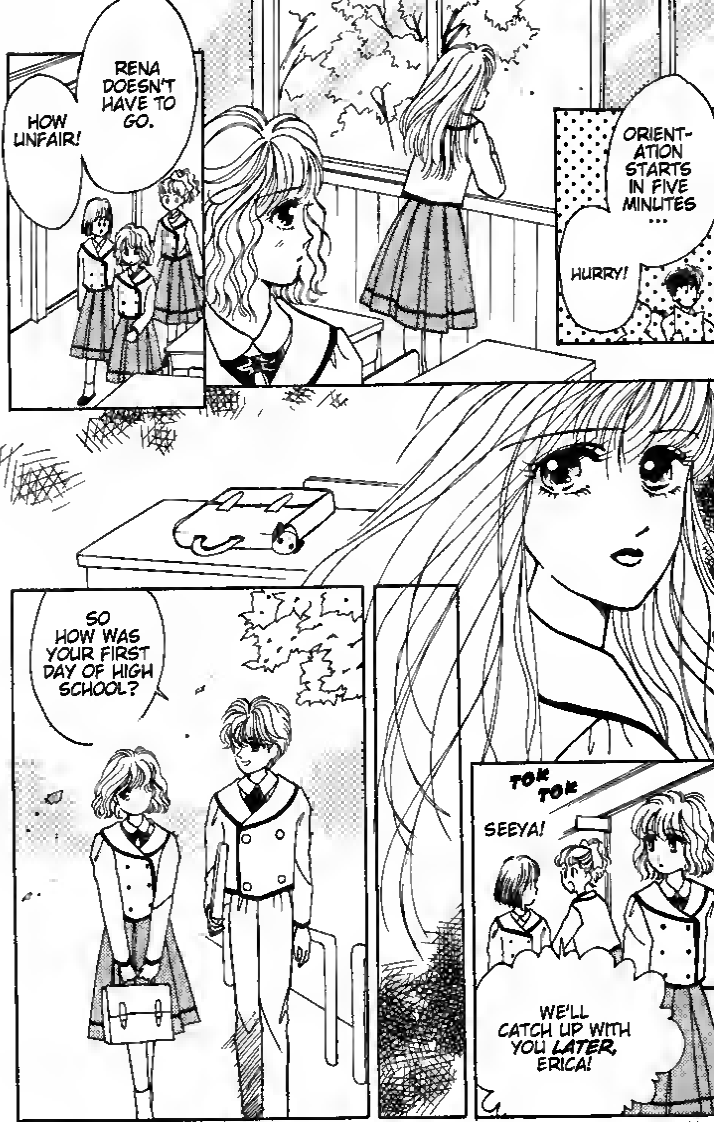

入学式
SINCE MOM AND DAD ARE FAR AWAY---
I'LL WALK YOU BACK AFTER SCHOOL.
--HE'S THE ONLY ONE I CAN DEPEND ON.
NICE MEETING YOU!
OH! IT'S THAT GIRL!

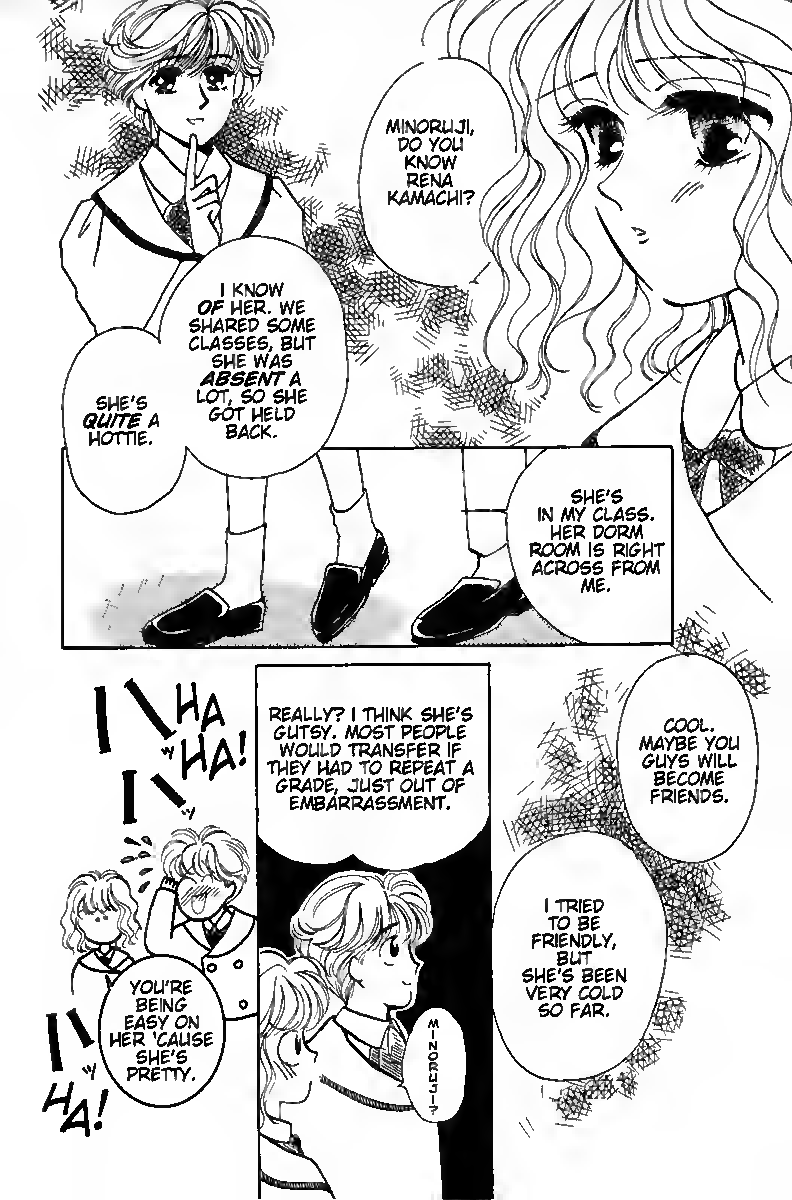

I DIDN'T SEE YOU DURING THE CERE-MONY...
...I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIND YOU!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I DIDN'T HAVE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY.
?
LET YOUR BOY-FRIEND WALK YOU BACK.
LET'S WALK BACK TO THE DORM TOGETHER AFTER SCHOOL.
HUH? I DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND.
YOU WERE WALKING WITH A GUY THIS MORNING.
OH, MINORU-JI?


RENA! RENA! WHAT'S UP?
WE GREW UP TOGETHER. HE'S A STUDENT HERE, SO WE WALK TOGETHER.
HEY GUYS! WHAT'S UP?
あ、ぁ
Oh...
YOUR NAME IS ERICA, RIGHT?
MS. MAYURI, THANK YOU OX 1 MILLION!
SHE'S REPEATING THIS GRADE, SO SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY.
I... UHH...
NICE TO MEET YOU! WHICH JUNIOR HIGH DID YOU ATTEND?
KAMACHI IS HER LAST NAME?
ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH RENA KAMACHI? SHE SEEMS KIND OF MEAN.


I WONDER IF SHE GOT IN TROUBLE.
SHE SEEMS LIKE A PARTY GIRL.
OH, I SEE.
I DIDN'T THINK SHE WAS MY AGE.
I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR--
--TO MAKE ASSUMPTIONS LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR BAG?
SURE, ERICA... WHATEVER.
HE'S SOOO CUTE!
I BROUGHT HIM WITH ME FOR SUPPORT.
HIS NAME IS SANTARO.

BYE, RENA.
I LOVE YOUR STUFFED ANIMALS!
YOU BROUGHT A STUFFED ANIMAL? *GROW UP!* THIS ISN'T GRADE SCHOOL.
SEE, I WAS RIGHT!
SHE *IS* CRUEL.

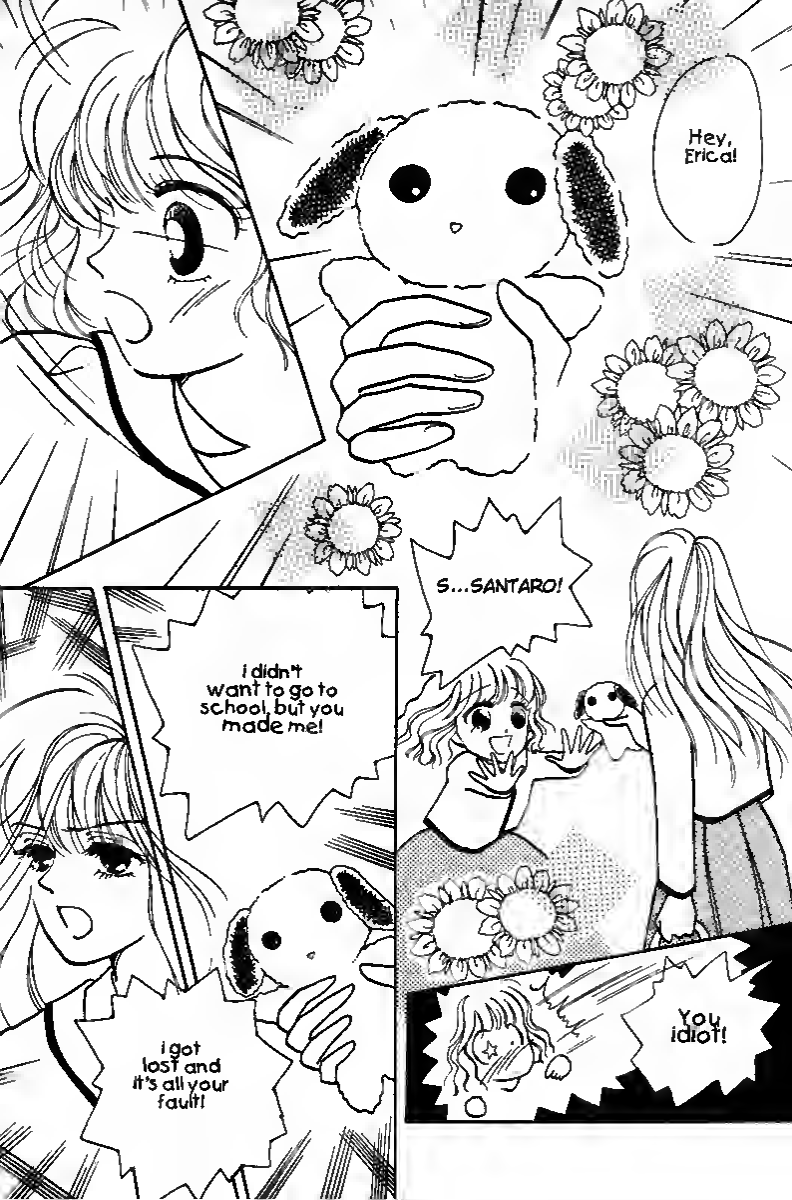

HOW UNFAIR!
RENA DOESN'T HAVE TO GO.
ORIENT-ATION STARTS IN FIVE MINUTES ...
HURRY!
SO HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL?
TOK TOK
SEEYA!
WE'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER, ERICA!


MINORUJI, DO YOU KNOW RENA KAMACHI?
I KNOW OF HER. WE SHARED SOME CLASSES, BUT SHE WAS ABSENT A LOT, SO SHE GOT HELD BACK.
SHE'S QUITE A HOTTIE.
SHE'S IN MY CLASS. HER DORM ROOM IS RIGHT ACROSS FROM ME.
COOL. MAYBE YOU GUYS WILL BECOME FRIENDS.
I TRIED TO BE FRIENDLY, BUT SHE'S BEEN VERY COLD SO FAR.
REALLY? I THINK SHE'S GUTSY. MOST PEOPLE WOULD TRANSFER IF THEY HAD TO REPEAT A GRADE, JUST OUT OF EMBARRASSMENT.
MINORUJI?
HA HA!
YOU'RE BEING EASY ON HER 'CAUSE SHE'S PRETTY.
HA!

HAH HA.. GUILTY AS CHARGED.
JUST REMEMBER THIS...
...PICK YOUR FRIENDS CAREFULLY. TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.
SIGH
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THAT!
THE FIRST DAY ALWAYS WEARS ME OUT, SANTARO!
SANTARO!?
STUDENT CATTLEYA FEMALE DORMITORY

HE'S MISSING!
DID HE DROP OUT OF THE BAG?
I HAVE TO SEARCH THE WHOLE SCHOOL!
I THINK I WOULD NOTICE IF HE FELL OUT...
HE WAS IN MY BAG THE WHOLE TIME!
WHERE DID HE GO?
WAS HE STOLEN!?

COULD SHE HAVE...
GROW UP!
JOLT
I'M GOING BACK TO SCHOOL TO FIND...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ﾐｯﾁｬﾝ


Hey, Erica!
S...SANTARO!
You idiot!
I didn't want to go to school, but you made me!
I got lost and it's all your fault!

I'M SORRY, SANTARO!
I'LL NEVER TAKE YOU TO SCHOOL AGAIN!
Whatever! I'm too cool for school!
HE'S A TYPICAL TEEN-AGER.
YOU'RE FUNNY, RENA!

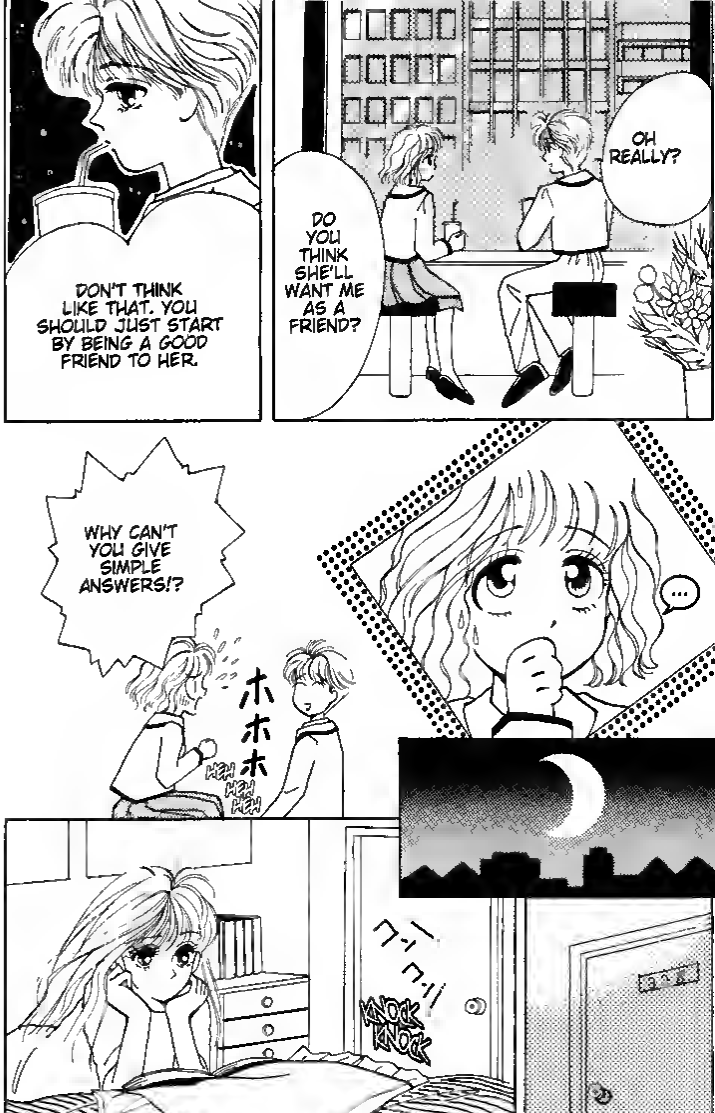
I SEE.
...
ON THE GROUND.
THANK YOU SO MUCH! WHERE WAS HE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SUSPECTED HER...
HE FELL OUT OF MY BAG.
THERE'RE PLENTY OF NASTY PEOPLE AT SCHOOL.
A LONG TIME AGO, I USED TO HAVE LOTS OF STUFFED ANIMALS, TOO.

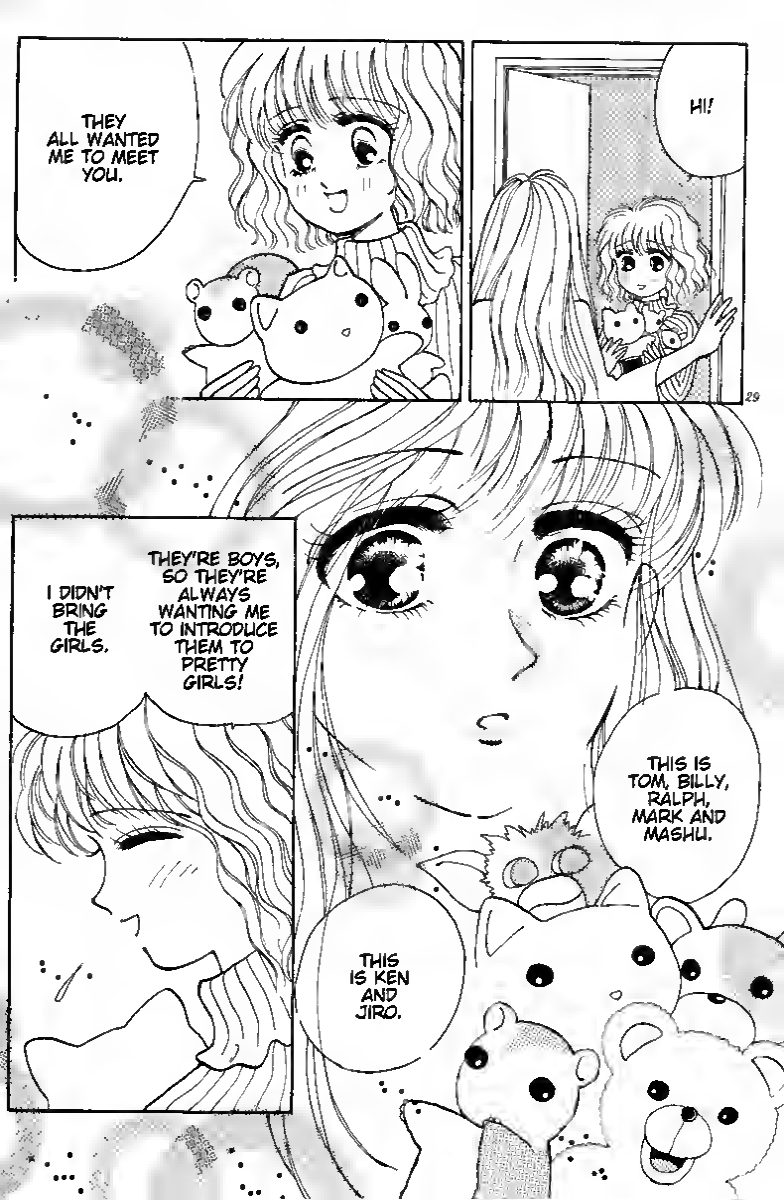
I COULDN'T PROTECT MINE.
YOU'RE A BIG GIRL NOW.
THESE DOLLS HAVE TO GO.
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S REALLY LIKE.
WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK ABOUT RENA?
SANTARO YOU SMELL WEIRD TODAY.

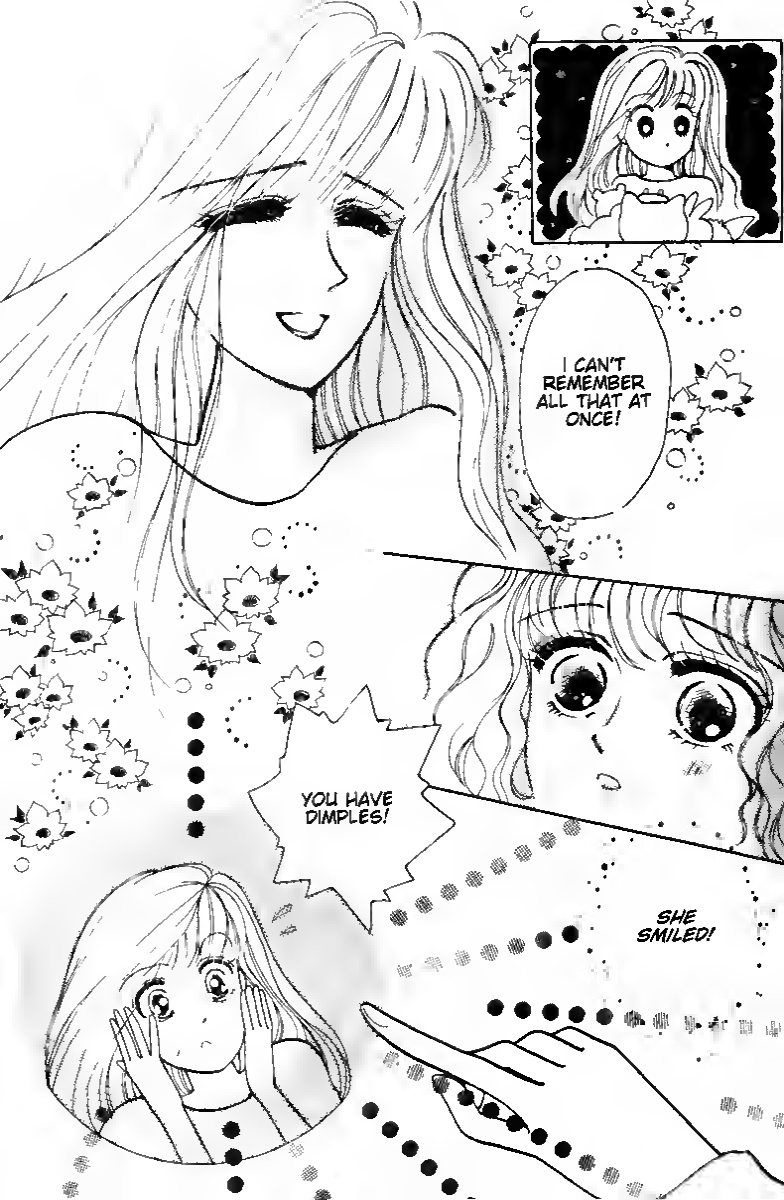
WHAT IS SHE REALLY LIKE?
MORNING ERICA!
DID YOU BRING YOUR DOLL TODAY, TOO?
NO, I DECIDED NOT TO BRING IT TO SCHOOL.
OH, SO YOU FOUND IT?
UM, YEAH?
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM AGAIN, SO...
DARN IT! I THOUGHT WE HID IT IN A GOOD SPOT!
WHAT!?

WE THOUGHT SHE WOULD NEVER FIND IT IN THE JANITOR'S CLOSET.
THEY WERE BEHIND ALL THIS!?
OOOPS!
SHHH!
I'D BET SHE WAS WATCHING US!
RENA WAS STILL IN CLASS.
RENA, YOU SAID YOU FOUND HIM ON THE GROUND.
THEY WERE PICKING ON ME, HUH?
IS THAT TRUE?

PUT IT IN HERE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE BROUGHT A *DOLL* TO SCHOOL.
HER MISS INNOCENT ACT MAKES ME GAG!
LET'S TAKE THIS AND HIDE IT!
IT'S SO OLD AND GROSS!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH RENA. I THINK SHE'S PROBABLY A NICE PERSON.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL, REALLY.
YOU KNOW, *MINORU-JI*...
IT'S NOT ANYTHING TO CRY ABOUT.

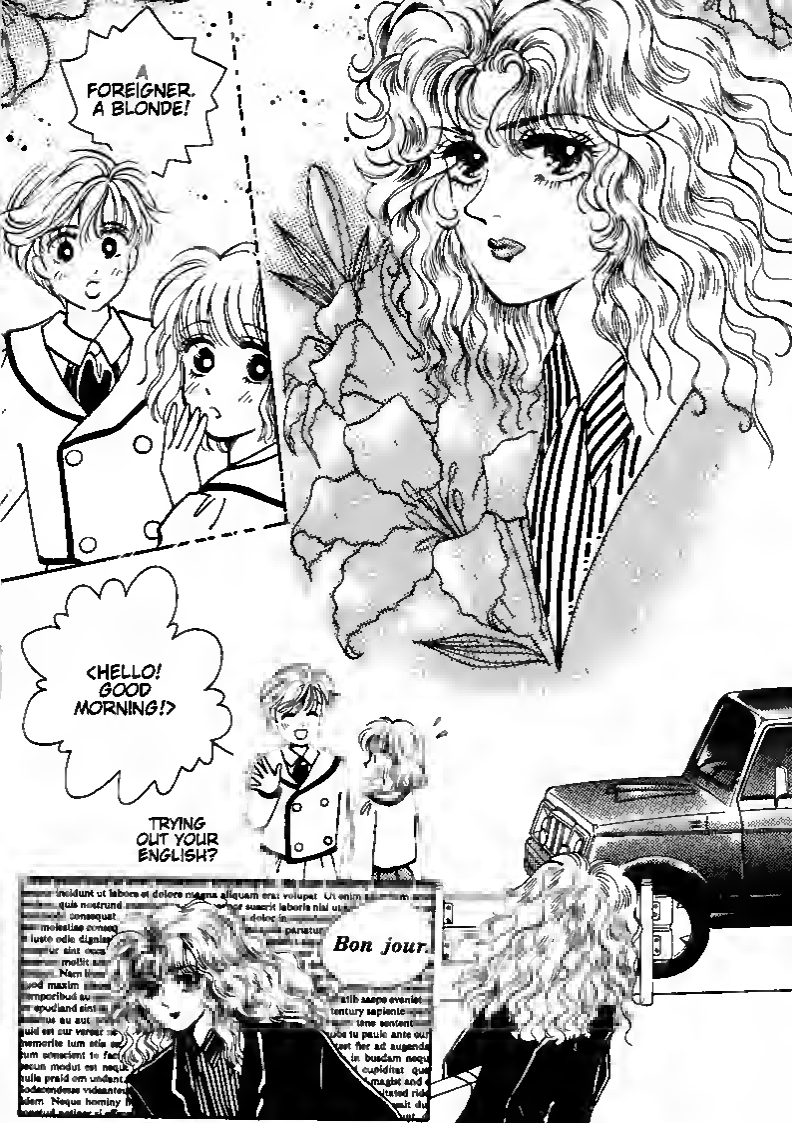

DON'T THINK LIKE THAT. YOU SHOULD JUST START BY BEING A GOOD FRIEND TO HER.
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL WANT ME AS A FRIEND?
OH REALLY?
...
WHY CAN'T YOU GIVE SIMPLE ANSWERS!?
ホホホ
HEH HEH HEH
KNOCK KNOCK


THEY ALL WANTED ME TO MEET YOU.
HI!
29
I DIDN'T BRING THE GIRLS.
THEY'RE BOYS, SO THEY'RE ALWAYS WANTING ME TO INTRODUCE THEM TO PRETTY GIRLS!
THIS IS TOM, BILLY, RALPH, MARK AND MASHU.
THIS IS KEN AND JIRO.


I CAN'T REMEMBER ALL THAT AT ONCE!
YOU HAVE DIMPLES!
SHE SMILED!

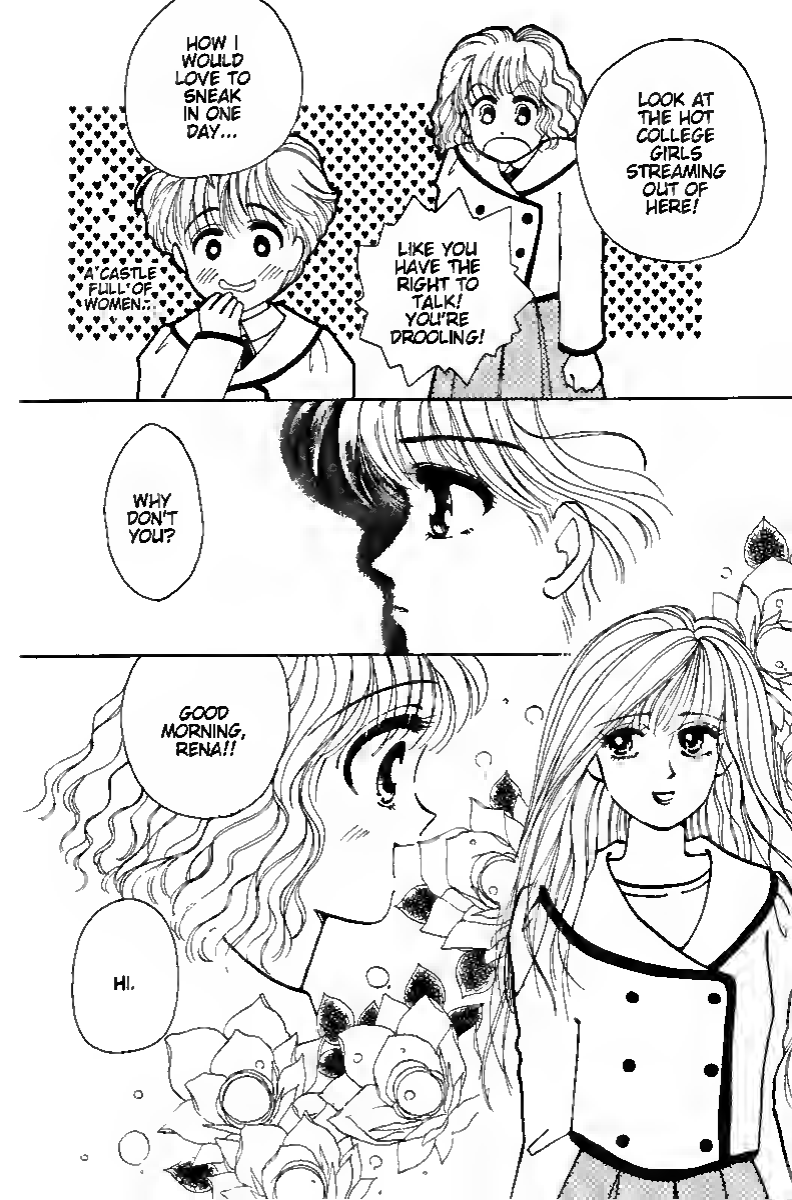
HOW CUTE! RIGHT, GUYS? IT'S CUTE, HUH!?
STARE
STARE
STARE
STARE
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE REALLY LOOKING AT ME?
I'M SORRY FOR THE RUDE COMMENT BEFORE. YOU'RE JUST SO HONEST AND CAREFREE.
I WAS JEALOUS.
GROW UP! THIS ISN'T GRADE SCHOOL!
IT'S OKAY. I CAN BE CHILDISH.
WELL, GOOD NIGHT! I NEED TO GET GOING.

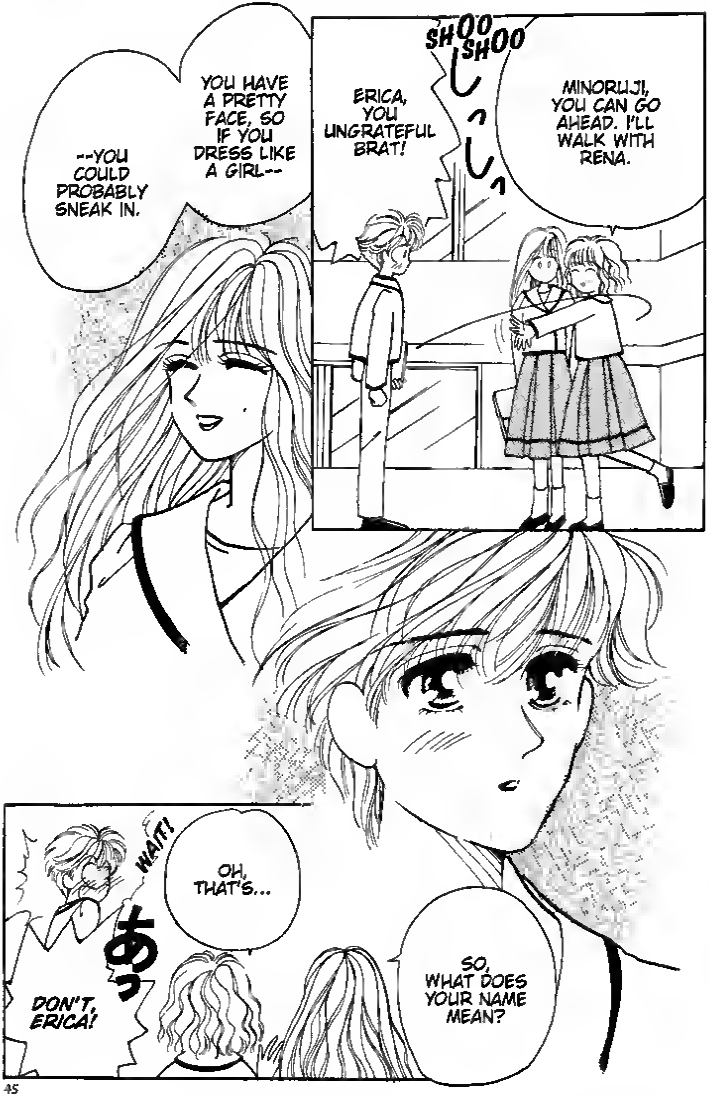
OH? あれ
PA-THUMP パタン
ポロリ
DROP
MIKE
MIKE
I'LL KEEP HIM FOR TO-NIGHT.
OR KEN?
WAS THIS TOM?
HIYA!
HUH?

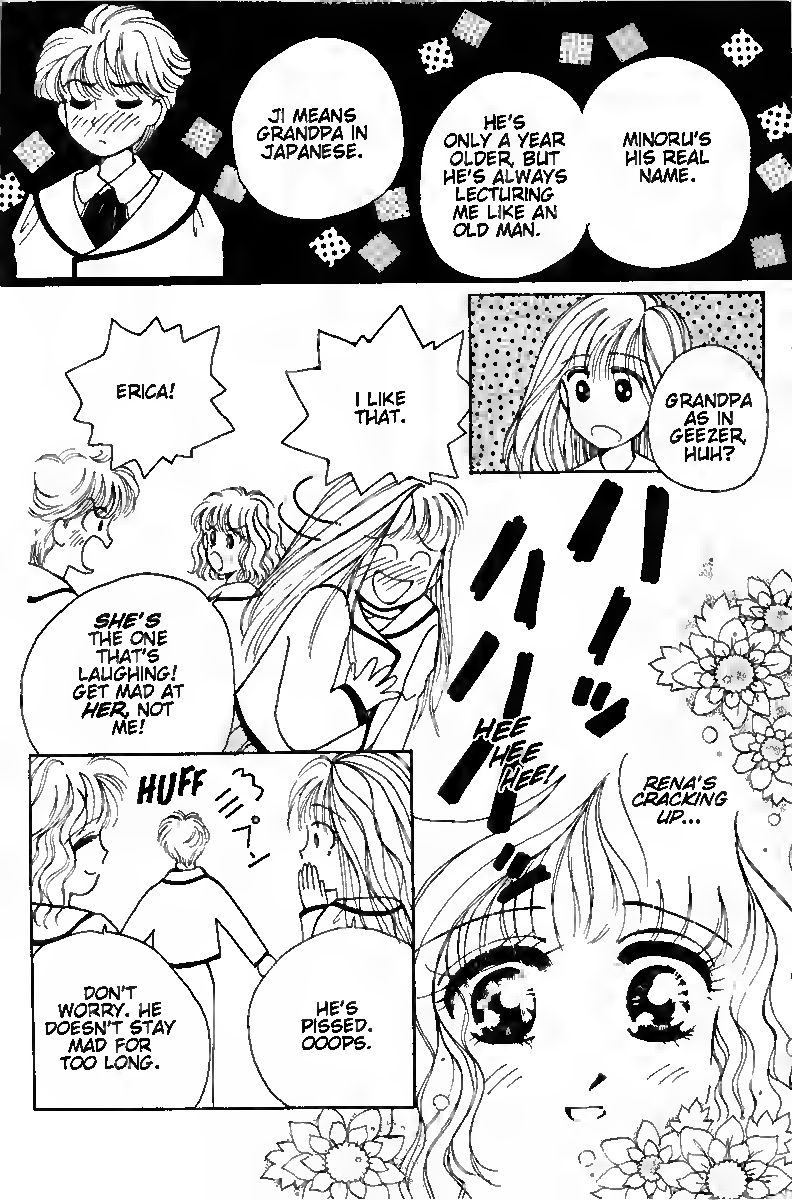

FOREIGNER. A BLONDE!
<HELLO! GOOD MORNING!>
TRYING OUT YOUR ENGLISH?
Bon jour.

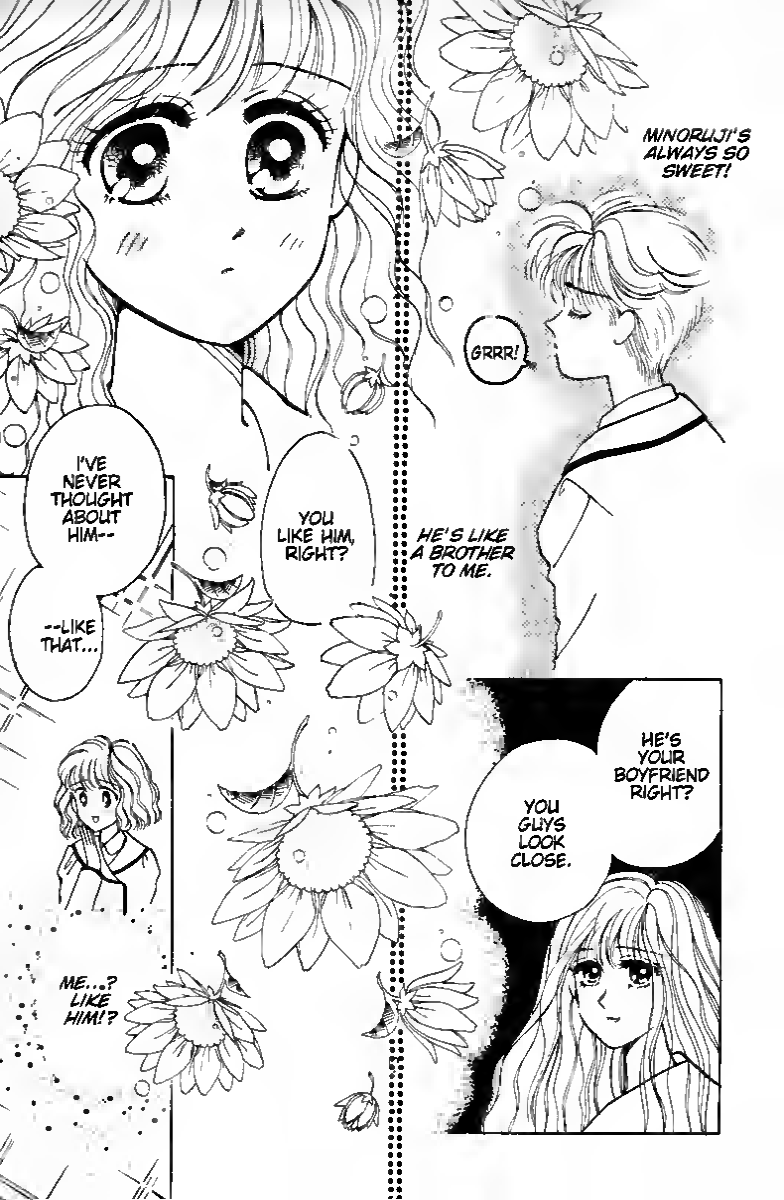
BLUSH
JUST BECAUSE SHE'S BLONDE DOESN'T MEAN SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH!
SHOOT! SHE'S FRENCH!
YOU'RE FUNNY!
WHERE'S MY GOOD MORNING KISS?
HI SOPHIE!
HI ROCKY!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR DORM HAS INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTS.
PROBABLY AN EXCHANGE STUDENT.
BLUSH
SHE SPEAKS JAPANESE!

SLAM!
WAS THAT...!?
VROOOM
WHAT WAS THAT!?
WHAT A PLAYER!
WHAT HAPPY FACE?
WHAT'S WITH THE HAPPY FACE, HUH?


HOW I WOULD LOVE TO SNEAK IN ONE DAY...
A CASTLE FULL OF WOMEN...
LOOK AT THE HOT COLLEGE GIRLS STREAMING OUT OF HERE!
LIKE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK! YOU'RE DROOLING!
WHY DON'T YOU?
GOOD MORNING, RENA!!
HI.


YOU HAVE A PRETTY FACE, SO IF YOU DRESS LIKE A GIRL--
--YOU COULD PROBABLY SNEAK IN.
ERICA, YOU UNGRATEFUL BRAT!
SHOO SHOO
しっしっ
MINORUJI, YOU CAN GO AHEAD. I'LL WALK WITH RENA.
SO, WHAT DOES YOUR NAME MEAN?
OH, THAT'S...
WAIT!
あっ
DON'T, ERICA!


JI MEANS GRANDPA IN JAPANESE.
HE'S ONLY A YEAR OLDER, BUT HE'S ALWAYS LECTURING ME LIKE AN OLD MAN.
MINORU'S HIS REAL NAME.
GRANDPA AS IN GEEZER, HUH?
I LIKE THAT.
ERICA!
SHE'S THE ONE THAT'S LAUGHING! GET MAD AT HER, NOT ME!
HEE HEE HEE!
RENA'S CRACKING UP...
HUFF
DON'T WORRY. HE DOESN'T STAY MAD FOR TOO LONG.
HE'S PISSED. OOOPS.


MINORUJI'S ALWAYS SO SWEET!
GRRR!
HE'S LIKE A BROTHER TO ME.
YOU LIKE HIM, RIGHT?
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT HIM--
--LIKE THAT...
ME...? LIKE HIM!?
HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND RIGHT?
YOU GUYS LOOK CLOSE.

TURN
HELLO!
HI ERICA!
I LIKE HIM A LOT, BUT AS A BOYFRIEND? I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
SHE LIKES TO STEAL OTHER PEOPLE'S BOYFRIENDS.
SHE'S SUCH A SNOB.
BE CAREFUL, ERICA.
I BET THEY'RE JUST REPEATING RUMORS...
I SWEAR TO GOD! I HEARD IT FROM A JUNIOR.
HUH...

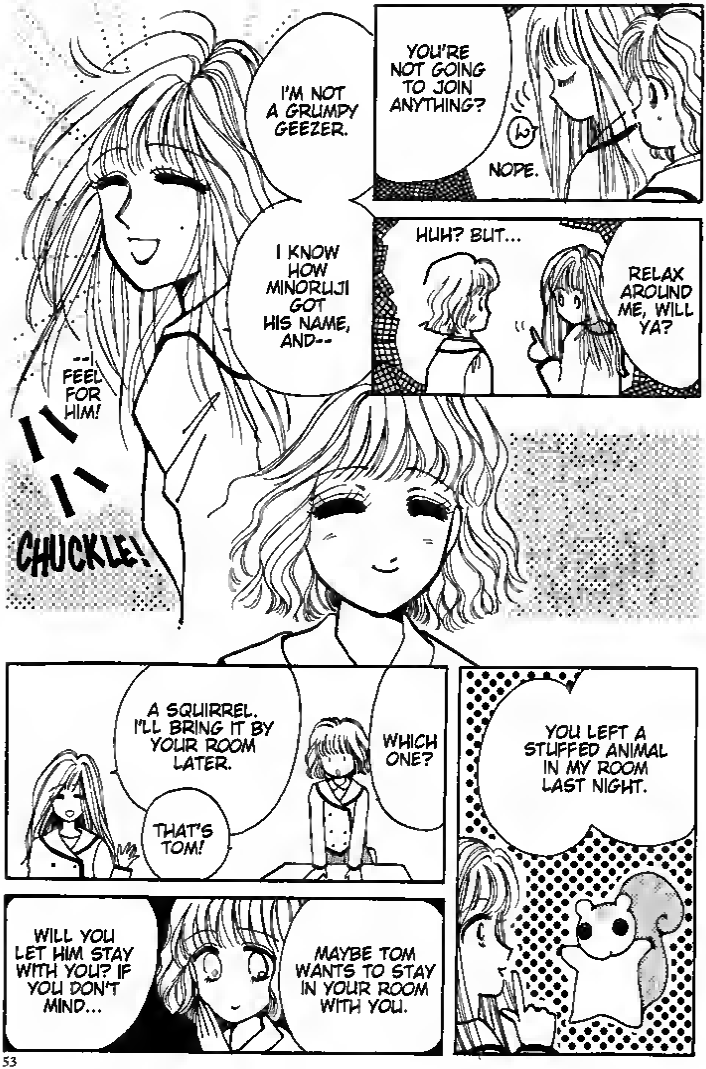
WILL YOU KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ERICA? I KNOW I'M ASKING A LOT, BUT...
HI RENA! WHERE'S ERICA?
SHE WENT TO THE RESTROOM, I THINK.
SHE'S LUCKY TO HAVE A GUY LIKE YOU LOOKING OUT FOR HER.
ドキ...
TA-THUMP
SHE LIKES TO STEAL OTHER PEOPLE'S BOYFRIENDS.
MINORUJI... AND RENA?

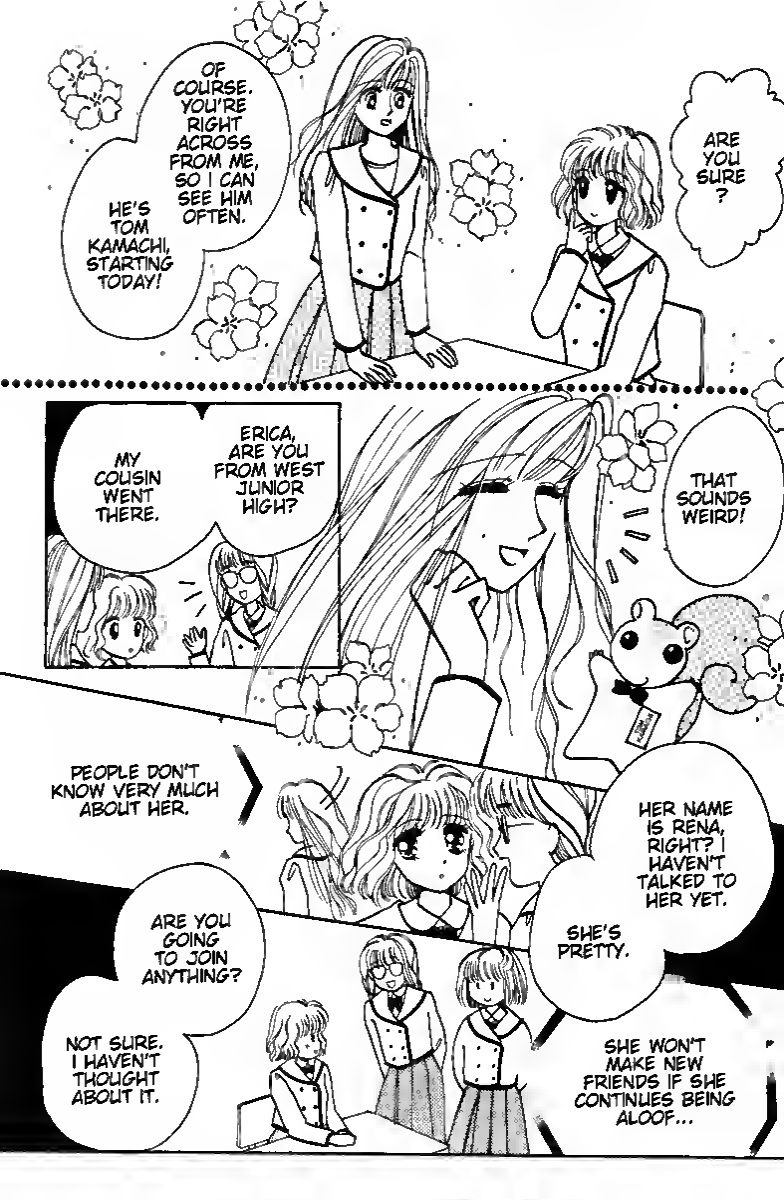
Omake 1 HOW IS EVERYONE DOING TODAY? THIS IS NOW MY FIFTH COMIC BOOK. I HAVE TO THANK ALL MY READERS FOR CHEERING ME ON AND MAKING THIS HAPPEN! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT. THIS STORY DOESN'T HAVE ANY FREAKY LONG HAIRED GUYS. INSTEAD, IT'S FILLED WITH ADORABLE STUFFED ANIMALS AND CUTE GIRLS. I HAVE A LOT OF STUFFED ANIMALS, ALTHOUGH MY COLLECTION IS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL. I HAVE STUFFED ANIMALS OF E.T., GIZMO FROM "GREMLINS" (I HAVE THREE GIZMOS. I ALSO HAVE TONS OF OTHER GIZMO RELATED GOODS. I LOVE GIZMO!), ALF, AN ALIEN CHARACTER FROM AN AMERICAN TV SHOW (WHEN YOU SQUEEZE HIS TUMMY, HE SAYS DIFFERENT THINGS IN ENGLISH), TO NAME A FEW. BASICALLY, I LIKE STUFFED ANIMALS OF WHALES, KILLER WHALES, DOLPHINS, MARINE ANIMALS, ALIENS, MOVIE CHARACTERS, ETC.

Continued in Omake 2

ERICA, I WON'T BE ABLE TO WALK YOU BACK HOME TODAY.
RENA, YOU'LL WALK BACK WITH HER, RIGHT?
SURE.
THAT'S FINE. WHAT'S UP?
I'M NOT INTO CLUBS, BUT A LOT OF THEM NEED TO MEET THE MINIMUM ENROLLMENT, SO I'LL BE HELPING THEM OUT WITH THAT.
THEY WANT US TO SET AN EXAMPLE DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER FOR NEW STUDENTS, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. LATER!
I THINK MINORU-JI SMILES DIFFERENTLY--
--WHEN HE'S WITH HER, COMPARED TO WHEN HE'S WITH ME.

OH, I'M SORRY! REALLY!
I FORGOT!
I WAS BARELY IN SCHOOL LAST YEAR. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, RENA?
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DID YOU DO ANYTHING DURING JUNIOR HIGH?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL. HONESTLY!
GIGGLE
SHE'S ASKING ABOUT ME!
NO, NOT REALLY.
I WONDER WHY SHE WAS ABSENT SO MUCH LAST YEAR.


YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JOIN ANYTHING?
NOPE.
HUH? BUT...
RELAX AROUND ME, WILL YA?
I'M NOT A GRUMPY GEEZER.
I KNOW HOW MINORUJI GOT HIS NAME, AND--
--I FEEL FOR HIM!
CHUCKLE!
A SQUIRREL. I'LL BRING IT BY YOUR ROOM LATER.
THAT'S TOM!
WHICH ONE?
YOU LEFT A STUFFED ANIMAL IN MY ROOM LAST NIGHT.
WILL YOU LET HIM STAY WITH YOU? IF YOU DON'T MIND...
MAYBE TOM WANTS TO STAY IN YOUR ROOM WITH YOU.


ARE YOU SURE?
OF COURSE. YOU'RE RIGHT ACROSS FROM ME, SO I CAN SEE HIM OFTEN.
HE'S TOM KAMACHI, STARTING TODAY!
THAT SOUNDS WEIRD!
ERICA, ARE YOU FROM WEST JUNIOR HIGH?
MY COUSIN WENT THERE.
HER NAME IS RENA, RIGHT? I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HER YET.
PEOPLE DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT HER.
SHE'S PRETTY.
ARE YOU GOING TO JOIN ANYTHING?
NOT SURE. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
SHE WON'T MAKE NEW FRIENDS IF SHE CONTINUES BEING ALOOF...

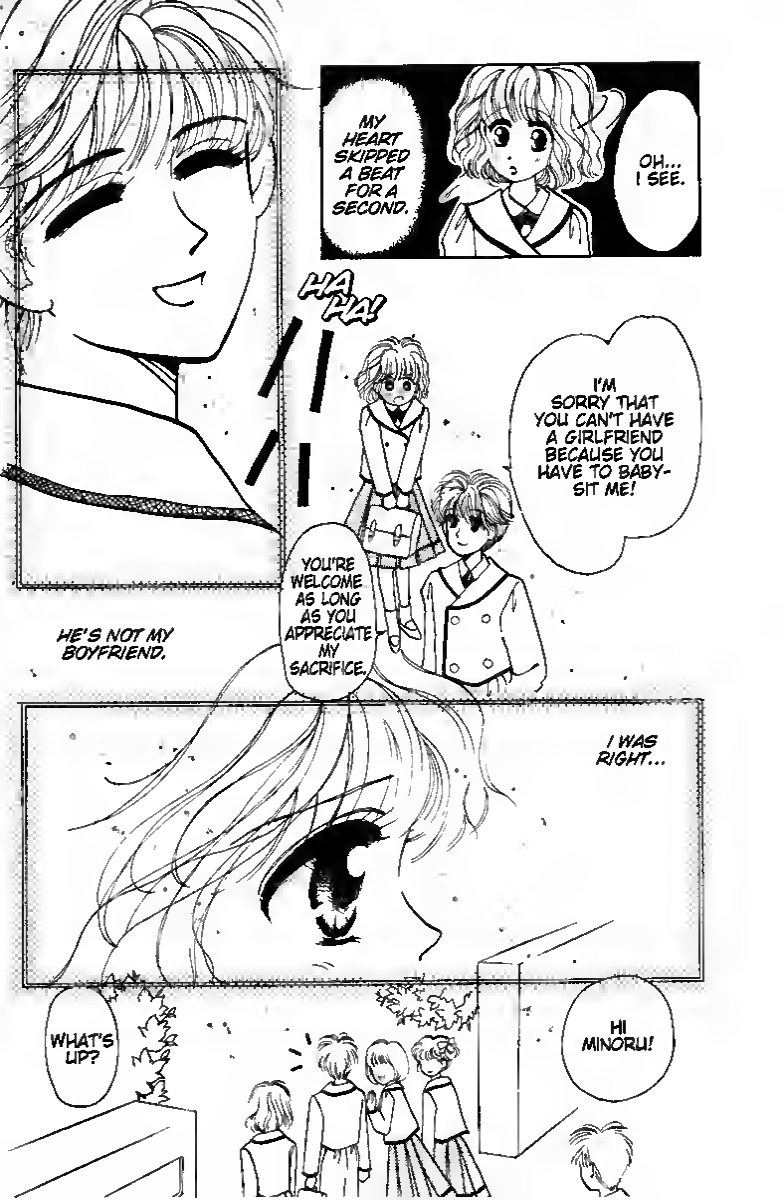
OKAY.
NO THANKS. I'M NOT INTERES-TED.
RENA, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DIFFERENT CLUBS ARE HAVING ORIENTATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AFTER SCHOOL.
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US? LET'S CHECK IT OUT TO-GETHER.
MINORUJI!
HE'S REALLY CUTE!

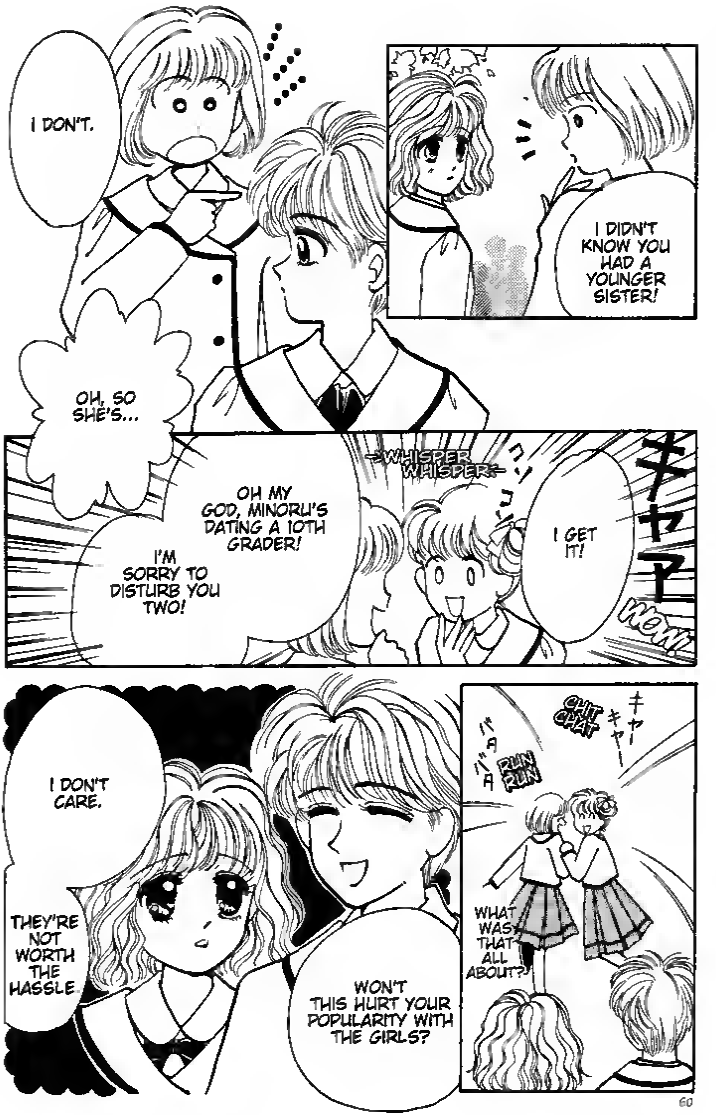
I DIDN'T KNOW HE PLAYED PING-PONG!
THERE YOU ARE!
YOU HAVE TO COME WITH ME!
がしっ
WE HAVE THREE GIRLS THAT ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING.
THEY'LL JOIN IF THEY THINK YOU'RE A MEMBER. PRETTY PLEASE???
HEY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP RECRUIT MEMBERS FOR THE PING-PONG TEAM!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK! WE'RE JUST STANDING AROUND, ANYWAY.
HE SEEMS POPULAR. I WANT TO JOIN THE CLUB THAT HE'S GOING TO ATTEND REGULARLY!
TOK TOK TOK

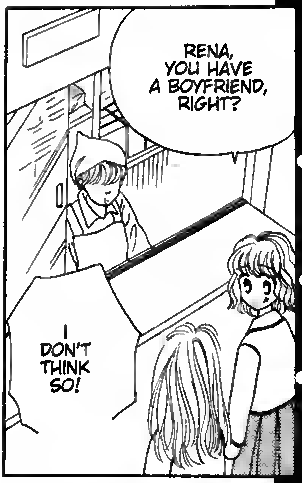
Omake 2

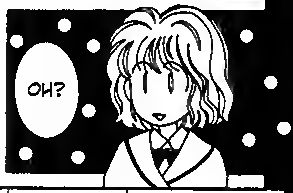
I BASED STAR ON A STUFFED ANIMAL I BOUGHT IN BOSTON. MY FRIEND AND I BOUGHT THE SAME THING. MY FRIEND'S DOLL WAS NAMED ROB, AND I NAMED MINE STAR. IN ADDITION, I BOUGHT STUFFED ANIMALS OF SEALS AND SHARKS. I ALSO BOUGHT A SNUGGLES BEAR. MY OTHER STUFFED ANIMALS ARE. BEAR, RABBIT, KIWI, ARMADILLO, TOM THE SQUIRREL, AND A RACCOON. I HAVE AT LEAST 2 OR THREE STUFFED ANIMALS EACH OF WHALES, KILLER WHALES AND DOLPHINS. EVEN NEW FRIENDS FIGURE OUT THAT A FOOLPROOF BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR ME IS A STUFFED ANIMAL OF A WHALE, KILLER WHALE OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. AS A RESULT, MY WHALE COLLECTION GROWS BY 1 OR 2 PIECES EVERY YEAR. I LOVE STUFFED ANIMALS! I AM STILL UPSET ABOUT MISSING OUT ON PURCHASING "FALKOR" FROM THE NEVER-ENDING STORY. I ALSO DIDN'T GET A STUFFED ANIMAL OF CHEWY OR AN EWOK FROM "STAR WARS." -:SOB:- FOR A WHILE, THERE WEREN'T MANY VARIETIES OF WHALE AND DOLPHIN STUFFED ANIMALS (NOT JUST DOLLS, EITHER). NOW, I HAVE SO MANY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM!

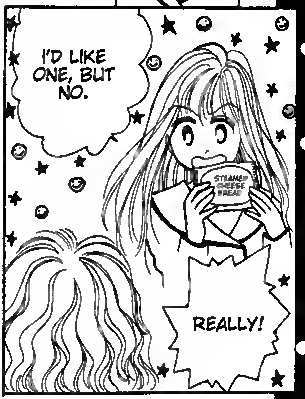
YESTERDAY, I WENT TO CHECK OUT SOME CLUBS.
THE GIRLS SEEMED TO LIKE YOU. THAT WASN'T THE CASE IN JUNIOR HIGH, SO...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH?
MAYBE, BUT EVER SINCE YOU'VE ENROLLED HERE,
I HAVEN'T GONE OUT WITH ANYONE, SO IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO LAST YEAR.
DEALING WITH ANOTHER GIRL WOULD BE TOO TIRING.
I NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OK.
TAP
TAP


OH... I SEE.
MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT FOR A SECOND.
HA HA!
I'M SORRY THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO BABY-SIT ME!
YOU'RE WELCOME AS LONG AS YOU APPRECIATE MY SACRIFICE.
HE'S NOT MY BOYFRIEND.
I WAS RIGHT...
HI MINORU!
WHAT'S UP?

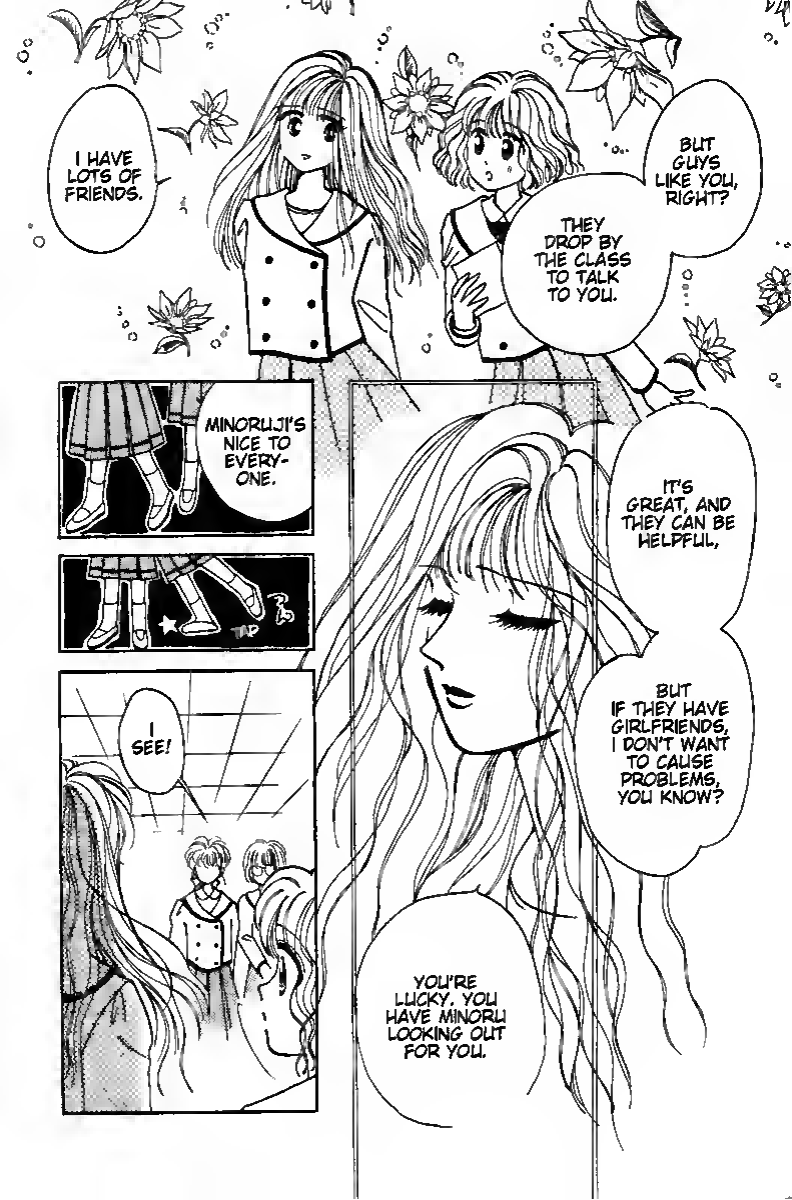

I DON'T.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A YOUNGER SISTER!
OH, SO SHE'S...
OH MY GOD, MINORU'S DATING A 10TH GRADER!
I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU TWO!
-WHISPER WHISPER-
I GET IT!
キャー
WOW!
I DON'T CARE.
THEY'RE NOT WORTH THE HASSLE
WON'T THIS HURT YOUR POPULARITY WITH THE GIRLS?
CHIT CHAT
キャー キャー
パタパタ
RUN RUN
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

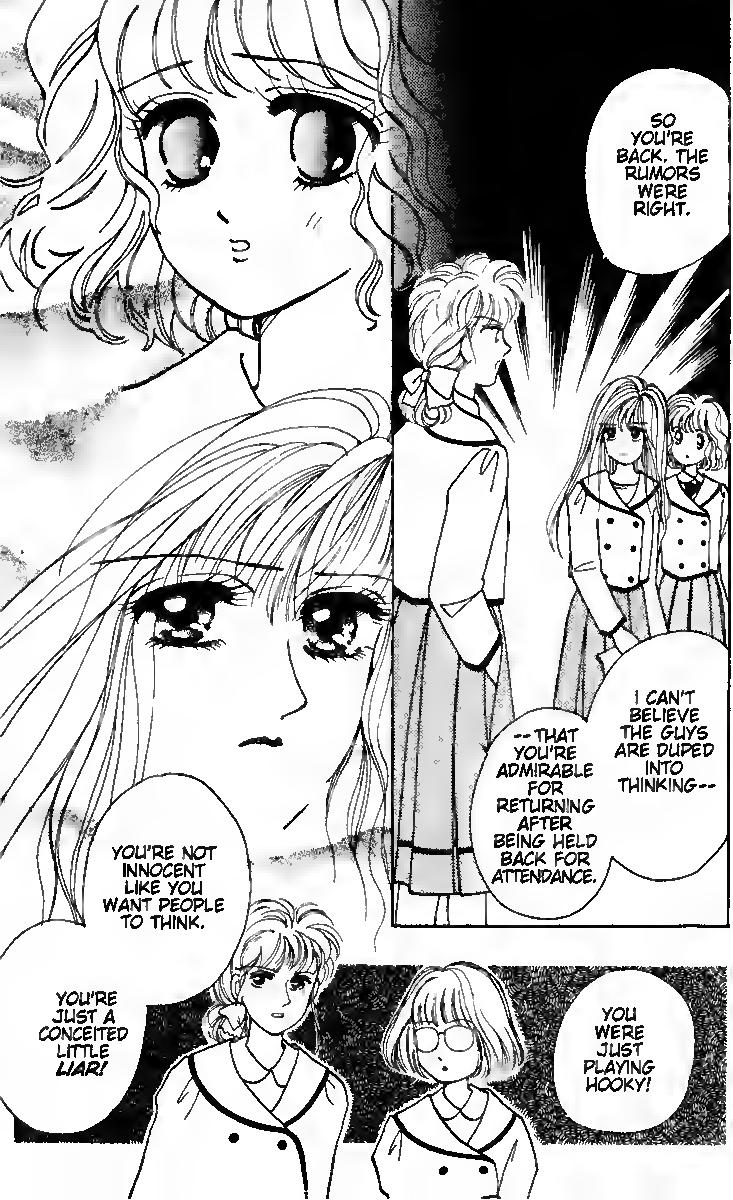

RENA, YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
I DON'T THINK SO!


OH?


I'D LIKE ONE, BUT NO.
STAMMER: THERE, THERE
REALLY!

HE DIDN'T SEEM TO MIND THE ATTENTION YESTERDAY.
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT MAKES--
--MINORU-JI SO SPECIAL.
IN FACT, HE SEEMED DOWNRIGHT HAPPY.


I HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS.
BUT GUYS LIKE YOU, RIGHT?
THEY DROP BY THE CLASS TO TALK TO YOU.
MINORUJI'S NICE TO EVERY-ONE.
TAP
IT'S GREAT, AND THEY CAN BE HELPFUL,
BUT IF THEY HAVE GIRLFRIENDS, I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE PROBLEMS, YOU KNOW?
I SEE!
YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU HAVE MINORU LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.


SO YOU'RE BACK. THE RUMORS WERE RIGHT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE GUYS ARE DUPED INTO THINKING--
--THAT YOU'RE ADMIRABLE FOR RETURNING AFTER BEING HELD BACK FOR ATTENDANCE.
YOU'RE NOT INNOCENT LIKE YOU WANT PEOPLE TO THINK.
YOU WERE JUST PLAYING HOOKY!
YOU'RE JUST A CONCEITED LITTLE LIAR!

AND YOU LOOK LIKE MINORU'S NEW GIRL. AM I RIGHT?
MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T STEAL YOUR MAN.

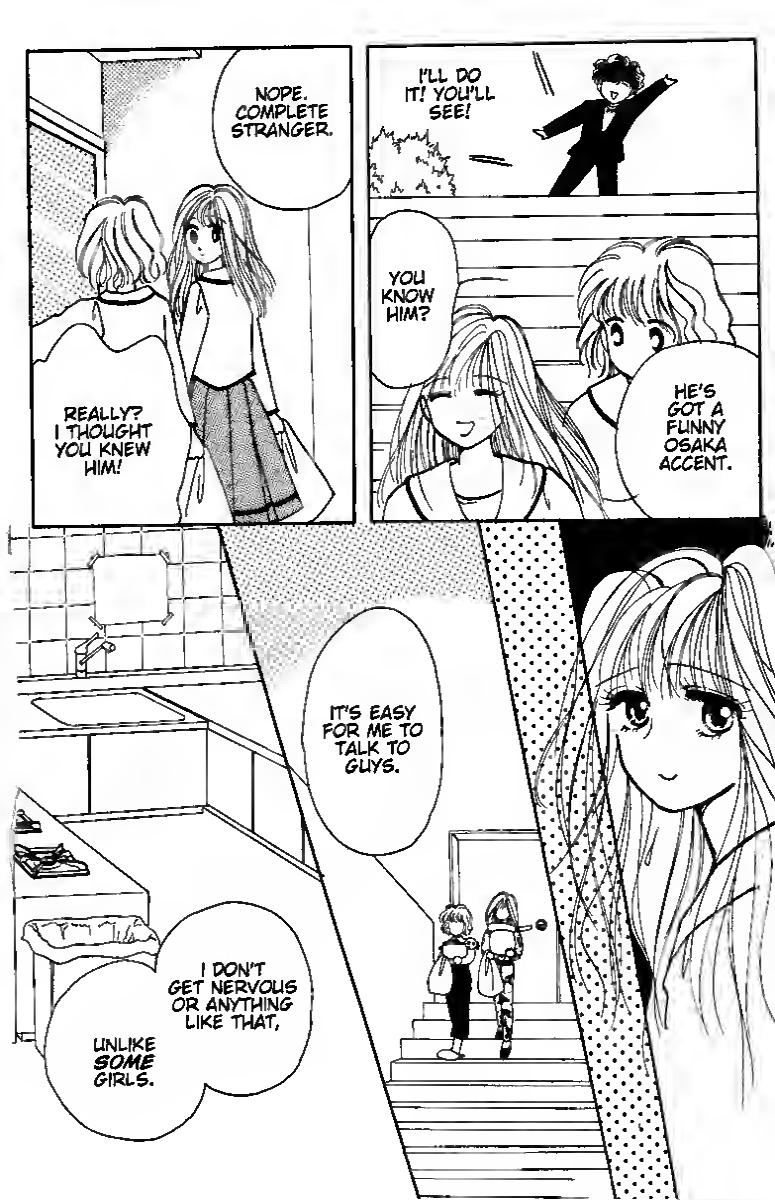
WHY ARE YOU CRYING, ERICA?
THEY WEREN'T PICKING ON YOU.
OR DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M GOING TO STEAL MINORU FROM YOU?

I CAN'T TAKE THIS! THIS IS WHY I DON'T LIKE GIRLS!
NO.
I CAN'T STAND--
--THE THINGS PEOPLE SAY TO YOU!
IT MAKES ME SICK!

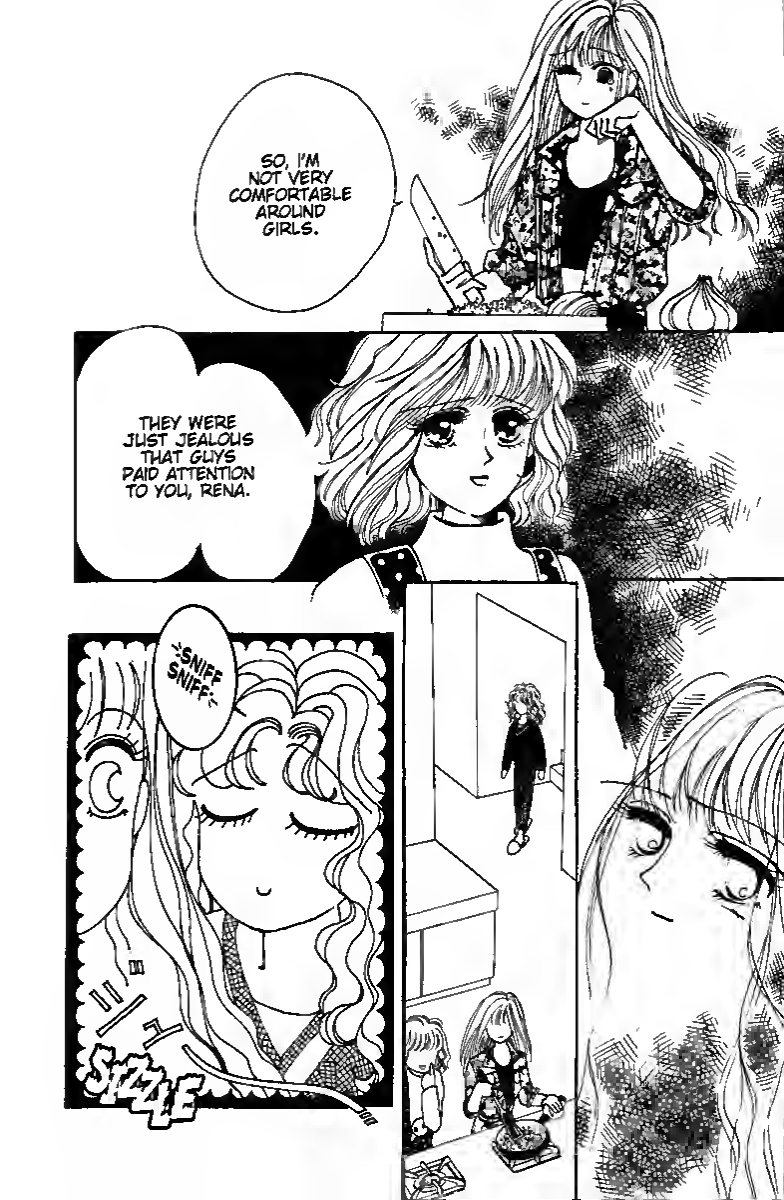
BUT I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO DEFEND YOU!
I'M SO SORRY!
IT'S OKAY.
DON'T STRESS ABOUT IT.
I KNOW!
WHAT ABOUT COOKING DINNER TOGETHER TONIGHT?

WE CAN EVEN MAKE LUNCH FOR TOMORROW. I'M SICK OF EATING BREAD.
YOU CAN COOK?
I BET YOU'VE NEVER USED IT BEFORE.
LET'S GO GROCERY SHOPPING AFTER SCHOOL. WE CAN USE THE KITCHEN IN THE BASEMENT.
I'M A DECENT COOK. YOU?
...

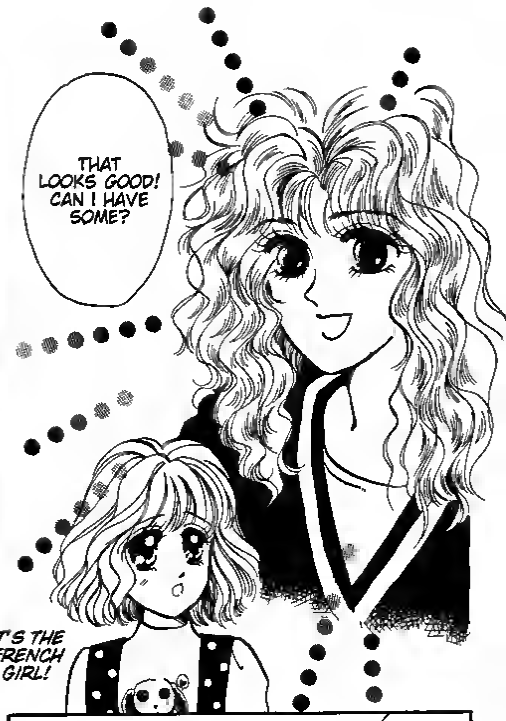
I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
BYE!
バイ♥
ARE YOU HER PERSONAL CHAUFFEUR? YOU'RE GIVING HER RIDES EVERY DAY.
WOW, THERE'RE A LOT OF HOT CHICKS LIVING IN THIS DORM. I WISH I COULD HANG OUT INSIDE.
DRESS IN DRAG. I BET YOU'D GET IN.
YOU THINK SO?
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TRY THAT!
SURE, WHATEVER.

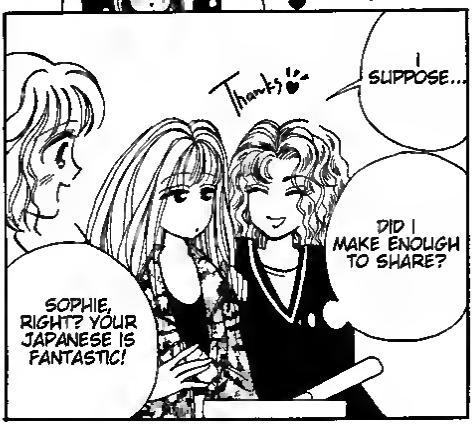

NOPE. COMPLETE STRANGER.
REALLY? I THOUGHT YOU KNEW HIM!
I'LL DO IT! YOU'LL SEE!
YOU KNOW HIM?
HE'S GOT A FUNNY OSAKA ACCENT.
IT'S EASY FOR ME TO TALK TO GUYS.
I DON'T GET NERVOUS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT,
UNLIKE SOME GIRLS.

I HAD A LOT OF GUY FRIENDS,
BUT A LOT OF GIRLS HATED ME.
ONE OF THE GIRLS FREAKED OUT THAT HER BOYFRIEND WAS INTERESTED IN ME.
ALL HER FRIENDS STARTED RUMORS.
THEY STARTED TO ATTACK ME, LIKE TODAY.
I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE,
SO I STOPPED GOING TO SCHOOL.
I CAME BACK, BECAUSE I WASN'T GOING TO LET THEM DRIVE ME AWAY.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS WAS MY SCHOOL OF CHOICE.


SO, I'M NOT VERY COMFORTABLE AROUND GIRLS.
THEY WERE JUST JEALOUS THAT GUYS PAID ATTENTION TO YOU, RENA.
SNIFF SNIFF
SIZZLE

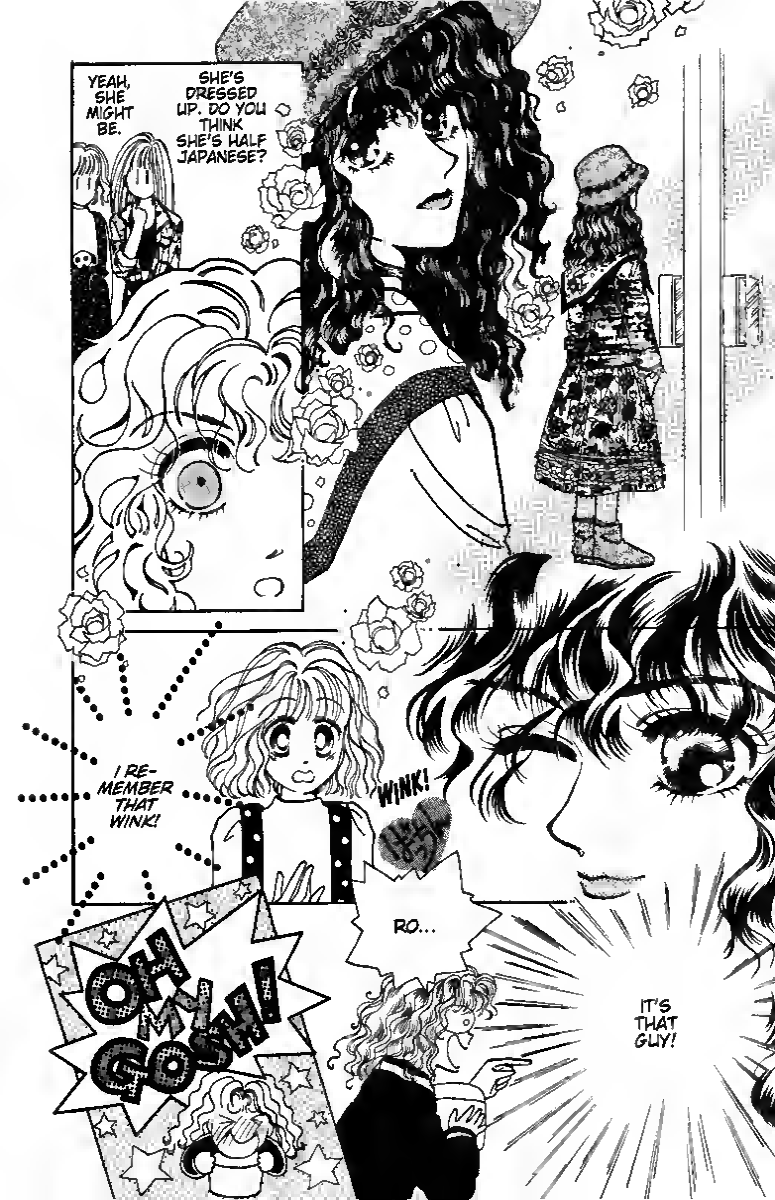
☆OM☆
HEY, YOU WHO'VE RECENTLY STARTED READING OMAKOMI, TANIGUCHI'S COMICS ARE
LET'S STAY TOGETHER FOREVER
MISS ME?
AQUARIUM
TULIP HEART
IF YOU COULD READ THESE, I WOULD BE SO HAPPY.
WHO IS THIS MODEL? IF WE HAD THIS QUIZ AT OMAKOMI, ONLY ONE PERSON WOULD FULLY UNDERSTAND, I WAS SURPRISED BY THAT. I CAN'T APOLOGIZE ENOUGH FOR THIS DRAWING NOT LOOKING LIKE HER AT ALL I WILL NOT SAY WHO THIS IS, SHE MIGHT GET UPSET A MILLION APOLOGIES


THAT LOOKS GOOD! CAN I HAVE SOME?
IT'S THE FRENCH GIRL!


Thanks!
I SUPPOSE...
DID I MAKE ENOUGH TO SHARE?
SOPHIE, RIGHT? YOUR JAPANESE IS FANTASTIC!

RENA. R-E-N-A.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I WOULD HAVE GUESSED R-I-N-A!
IT'S NOT.
I'm Santaro
THANKS! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ERICA.
E-R-I-C-A.
Hmm. That's easy!
HOW DO YOU SPELL IT?
YOU'RE FRENCH, RIGHT?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED HERE? I'VE BEEN HERE FOR A YEAR, BUT I'VE NEVER TALKED TO YOU.
YES, BUT I ALSO LIVED IN THE U.S., SO I SPEAK ENGLISH AROUND HERE. IT'S EASIER THAT WAY, SINCE MOST JAPANESE SPEAK ENGLISH.
ERICA JUST MOVED IN. I'VE BEEN HERE FOR A YEAR, BUT I'M NOT VERY SOCIAL.

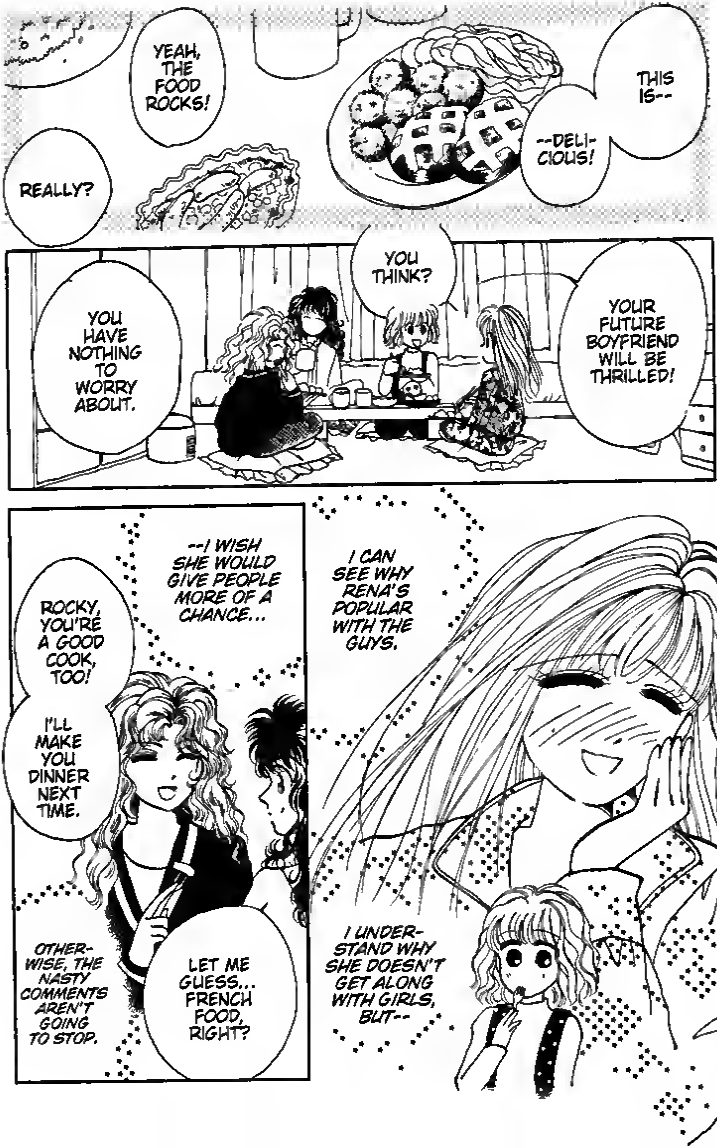
SOPHIE, ROOM 525, A GUEST IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE LOBBY.
ピンポンポーン
ピンポンポーン
ピンポンポーン
OH! THAT'S FOR YOU.
SOPHIE TO THE FRONT DESK, PLEASE.
REALLY? I CAN'T SPEAK ENGLISH.
ME NEITHER.
DON'T START EATING UNTIL I GET BACK!
THE RICE! YOU BRAT!
BRING THE めし RICE BACK!
かえせ〜っ
HI SOPHIE.
YOUR GUEST ASKED FOR YOU IN ENGLISH, SO I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND VERY MUCH.

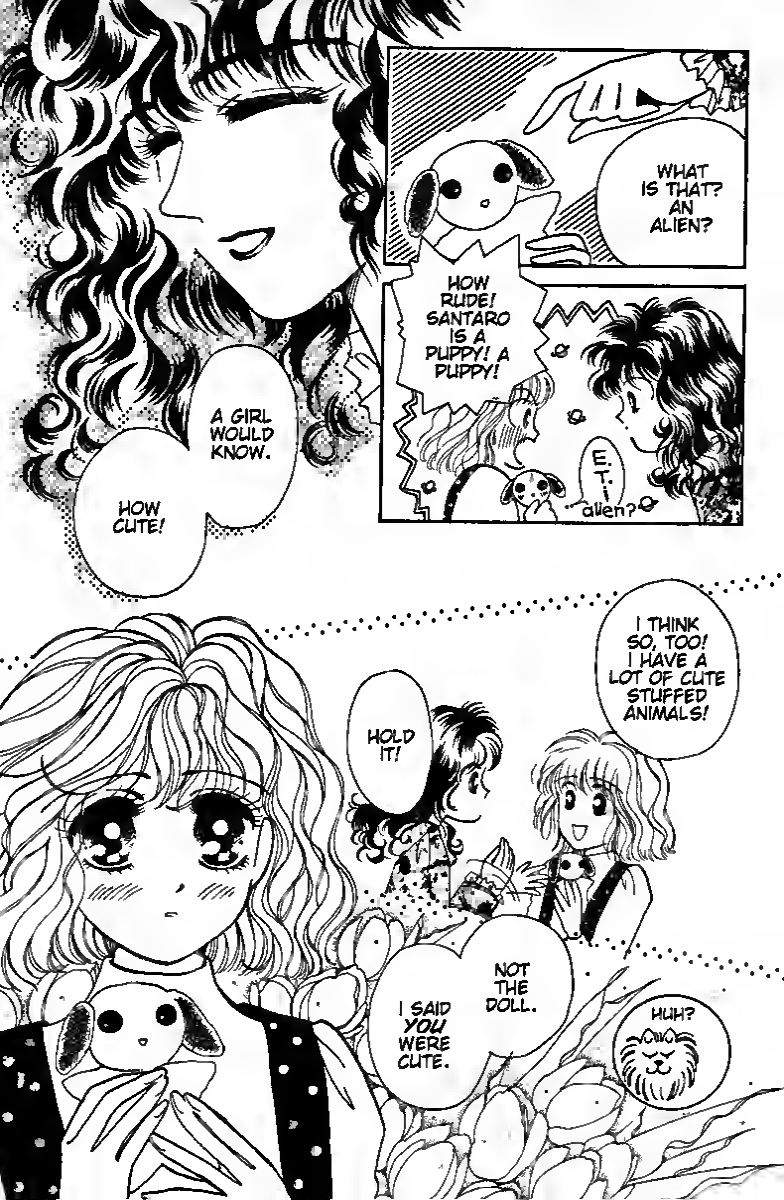

YEAH, SHE MIGHT BE.
SHE'S DRESSED UP. DO YOU THINK SHE'S HALF JAPANESE?
I REMEMBER THAT WINK!
WINK!
OH MY GOSH!
RO...
IT'S THAT GUY!

HE REALLY DID IT!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
SHE'S YOUR FRIEND, RIGHT?
Ha-ha-ha
ぽんぽん TAP TAP
THANK YOU!
SURE! Yep.
PLEASE SIGN IN.
SHE KEEPS SAYING PLEASE.
VISITING HOURS END AT 10 PM. PLEASE, PLEASE.
SILENCE
ウィーン Whirrrr
DASH
ダダダ

328
SLAM!
RUSH RUSH
YEAH!
イェーイ!
COOL! YOU DID IT! YOU GOT IN!
A REAL MAN WILL KEEP HIS WORD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DRESSED UP IN DRAG SO FAST. THAT WIG REMINDS ME OF A ROCK STAR.
YEAH, WHATEVER.
HA, I BET YOU WERE SURPRISED!
YOU HAVE GUTS, ALL RIGHT.
DON'T MISTAKE ME FOR THOSE HEAVY METAL GUYS.
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

HUH? WE WERE JUST WALKING BACK FROM COLLEGE--
--THAT'S ALL.
DIDN'T YOU GUYS EAT ALREADY? YOU TWO WERE ON A DATE, RIGHT?
YOU'VE PICKED UP HIS ACCENT.
I WANNA EAT DINNER, TOO!
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOR 4 PEOPLE!
I'LL COOK SOMETHING WITH THE LEFTOVER INGRE-DIENTS.
I REFUSE TO DATE IDIOTS!
I LOVE YOU!
SURROUNDED BY PRETTY GIRLS...
THERE!
SANTARO, DINNER WILL BE FUN TONIGHT!
WOW!
OKAY, SO I'M NOT SO PRETTY.
I'm happy for you!


YEAH, THE FOOD ROCKS!
REALLY?
THIS IS--
--DELI-CIOUS!
YOU THINK?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
YOUR FUTURE BOYFRIEND WILL BE THRILLED!
--I WISH SHE WOULD GIVE PEOPLE MORE OF A CHANCE...
ROCKY, YOU'RE A GOOD COOK, TOO!
I'LL MAKE YOU DINNER NEXT TIME.
OTHER-WISE, THE NASTY COMMENTS AREN'T GOING TO STOP.
LET ME GUESS... FRENCH FOOD, RIGHT?
I CAN SEE WHY RENA'S POPULAR WITH THE GUYS.
I UNDER-STAND WHY SHE DOESN'T GET ALONG WITH GIRLS, BUT--


WHAT IS THAT? AN ALIEN?
HOW RUDE! SANTARO IS A PUPPY! A PUPPY!
E.T.! alien?
A GIRL WOULD KNOW.
HOW CUTE!
I THINK SO, TOO! I HAVE A LOT OF CUTE STUFFED ANIMALS!
HOLD IT!
NOT THE DOLL.
I SAID YOU WERE CUTE.
HUH?

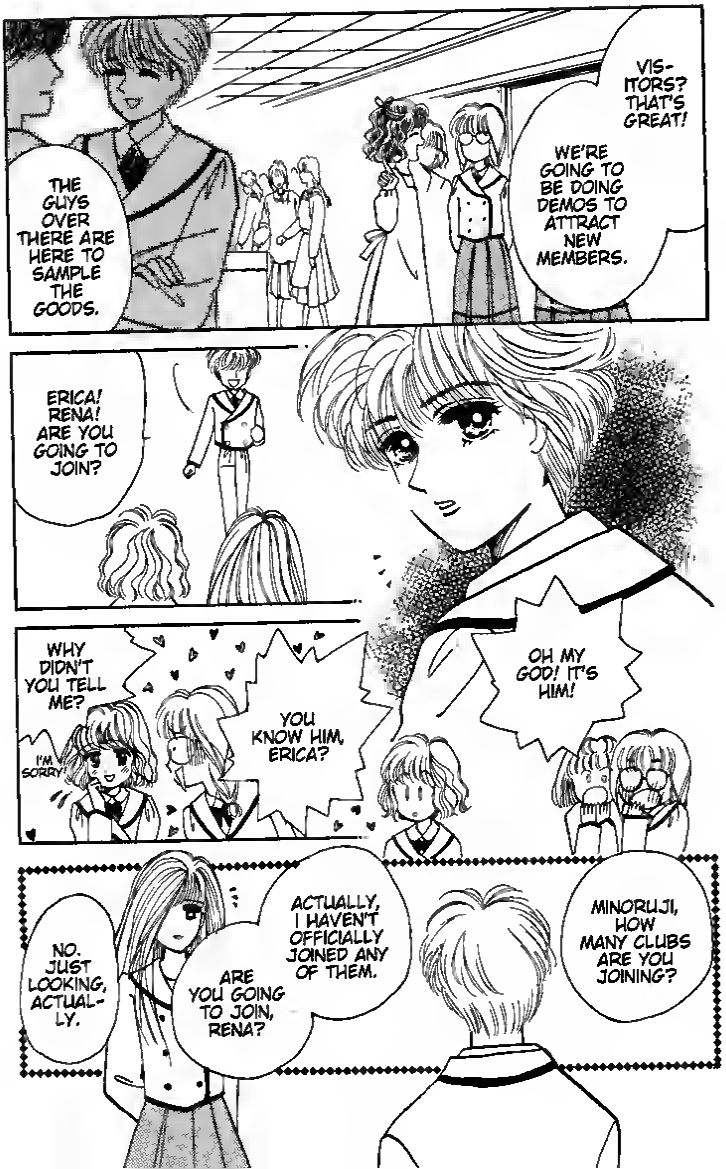
HE'S IN COLLEGE, SO HE'S OLDER THAN MINORUJI.
LATER!
good night!
I'M CUTE ...?
EVEN MINORUJI HAS NEVER SAID THAT TO ME!
WAS HE PRETENDING TO BE CHINESE-AMERICAN?
HE SIGNED IN AS "JULIE CHEN?"
WE'LL PROCEED ACCORDING TO THE PLAN WE ESTABLISHED YESTERDAY.
IT MAY TAKE LONGER THAN WE PLANNED--
--BUT TAKE YOUR TIME, AND GET TO KNOW YOUR CLASSMATES.
I HOPE EVERYBODY HAS FUN WITH THIS!
I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH RAW FISH!
IT'S BLOODY! GROSS!
THE SHRIMP STILL HAS THE HEAD ATTACHED!

MS. KIMOTO, THANK YOU A MILLION TIMES FOR EVERYTHING!

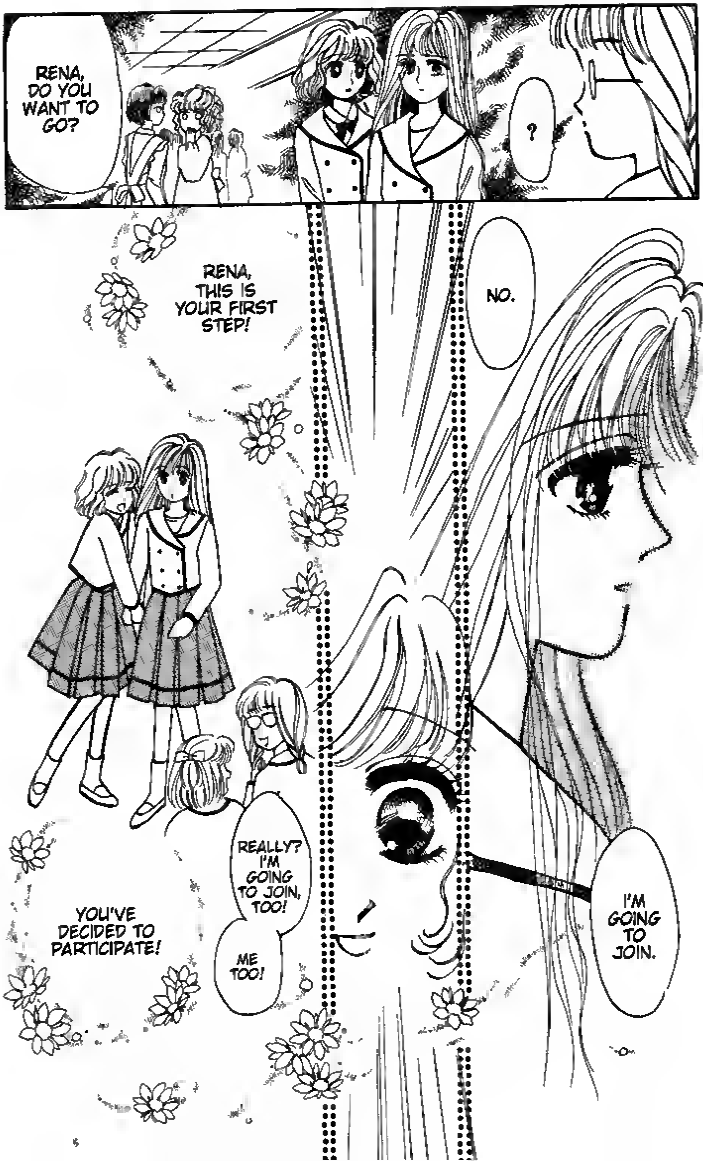
WAAAAHHH!
REALLY?
SHE'S ABOUT TO CRY.
YOU'RE IN TEARS!
DO YOU WANT ME TO DO IT?
WOW, YOU'RE GOOD!
SLICE SLICE
LOOK AT HER! HOW COULD SHE? GROSS!
RENA, DID YOU DO THAT?
OOOH, CHECK OUT THE CARROTS! JUST LIKE A PRO!
CLAP CLAP
YOU SLICE IT LIKE THIS FIRST...
WOW!

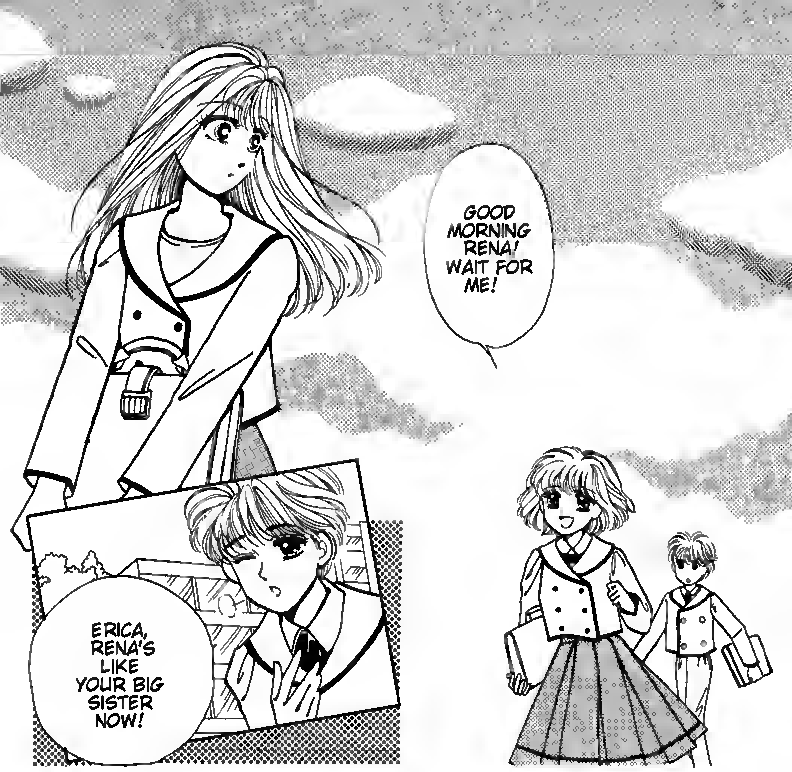
OW!
OOOPS!
SLICE!
HERE, ERICA!
BUT YOU'RE SO GOOD!
ACTUALLY, I CUT MYSELF A LOT.
I'M VERY CLUMSY.
I THOUGHT ERICA WOULD CUT HERSELF.
GIGGLE
WHAT!?
SOMEBODY ALWAYS GETS CUT.
YOU'RE PREPARED!

HUFF!
RENA, YOURS TURNED OUT REALLY GOOD!
WAAH! MINE LOOKS SO UGLY!
LET'S CHECK OUT THE COOKING CLUB LATER.
COME WITH US, RENA!
OUR TEACHER IS IN CHARGE OF IT.
WELL, UH...
SHE WANTS TO AVOID HER FORMER CLASSMATES.
LET'S GO. WE CAN LEAVE IF SOMEBODY MAKES A RUDE COMMENT.
I'LL GO. JUST TO LOOK, THOUGH.

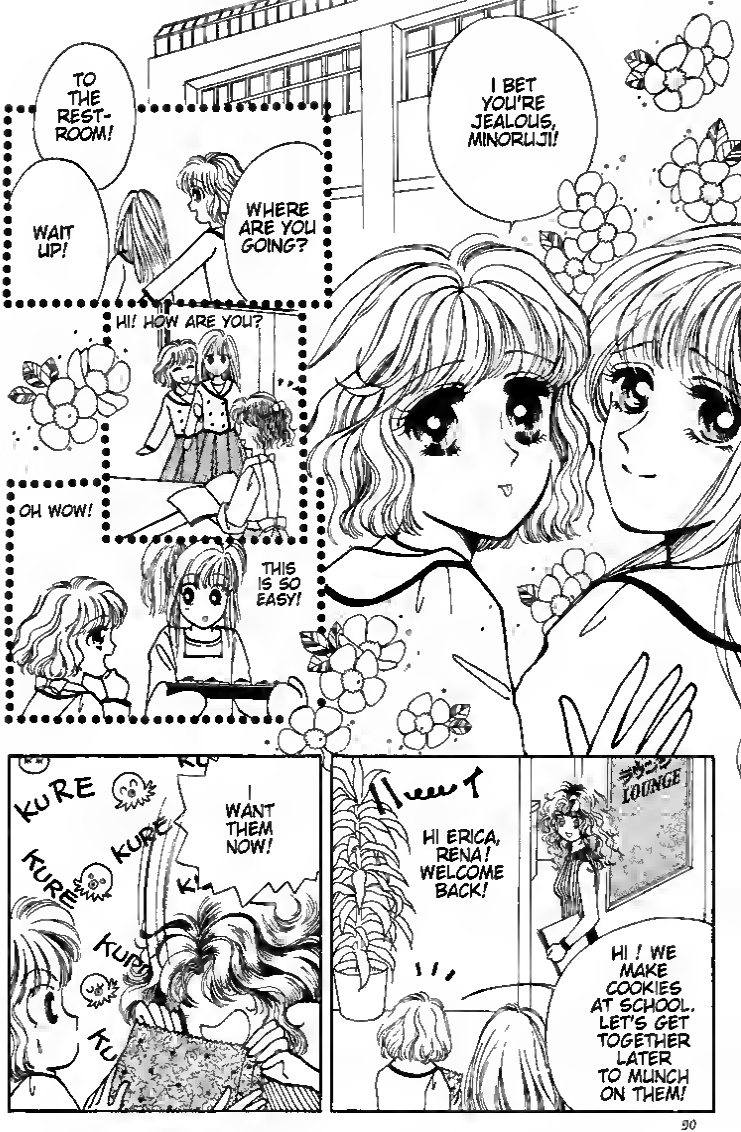

THE GUYS OVER THERE ARE HERE TO SAMPLE THE GOODS.
VIS-ITORS? THAT'S GREAT!
WE'RE GOING TO BE DOING DEMOS TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS.
ERICA! RENA! ARE YOU GOING TO JOIN?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
I'M SORRY
YOU KNOW HIM, ERICA?
OH MY GOD! IT'S HIM!
NO. JUST LOOKING, ACTUAL-LY.
ARE YOU GOING TO JOIN, RENA?
ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T OFFICIALLY JOINED ANY OF THEM.
MINORUJI, HOW MANY CLUBS ARE YOU JOINING?

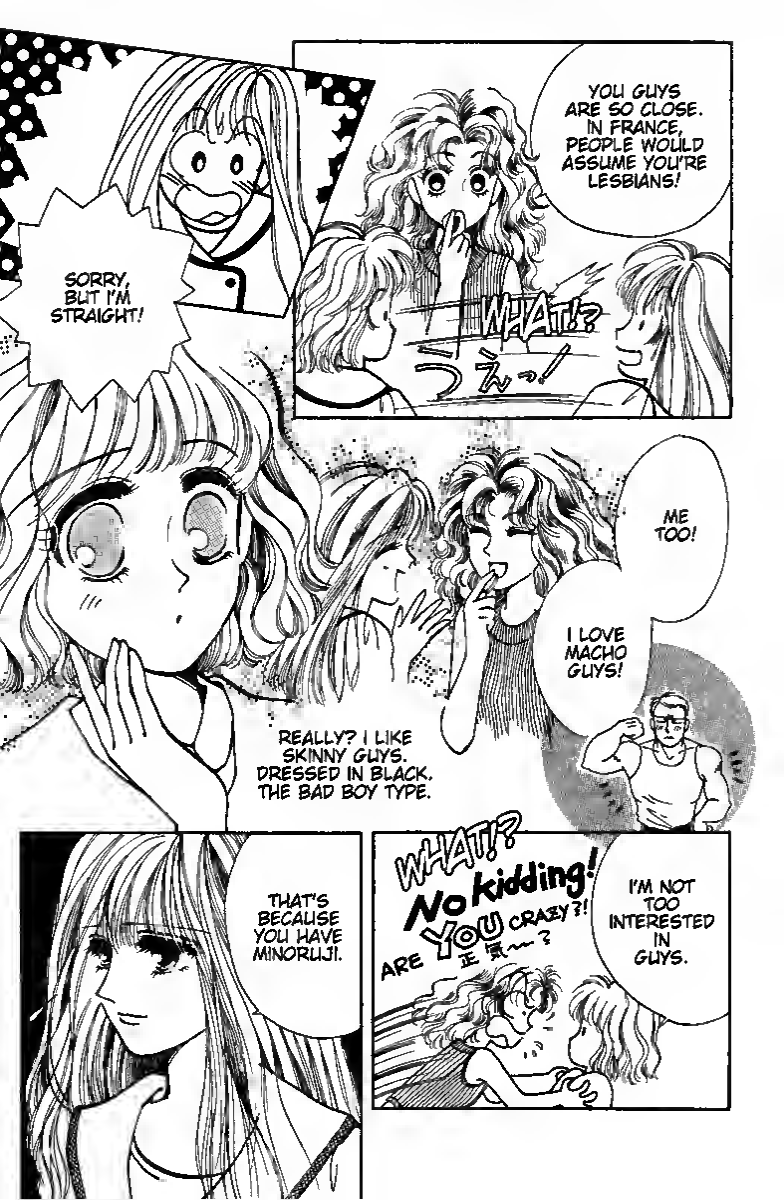
I WAS GOING TO JOIN--
--IF YOU WERE GOING TO.
THAT'S TOO BAD!
COME ON, JOIN US! PLEASE!
YEAH, SHE'S A GREAT COOK!
OH... IS THIS YOUR FIRST YEAR?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US, AT LEAST FOR TODAY?
OVER HERE.
SEE, NOT ALL YOUR FORMER CLASSMATES ARE MEAN, RENA.
WAIT, ISN'T THAT RENA--
--THE GIRL THAT FLUNKED OUT?

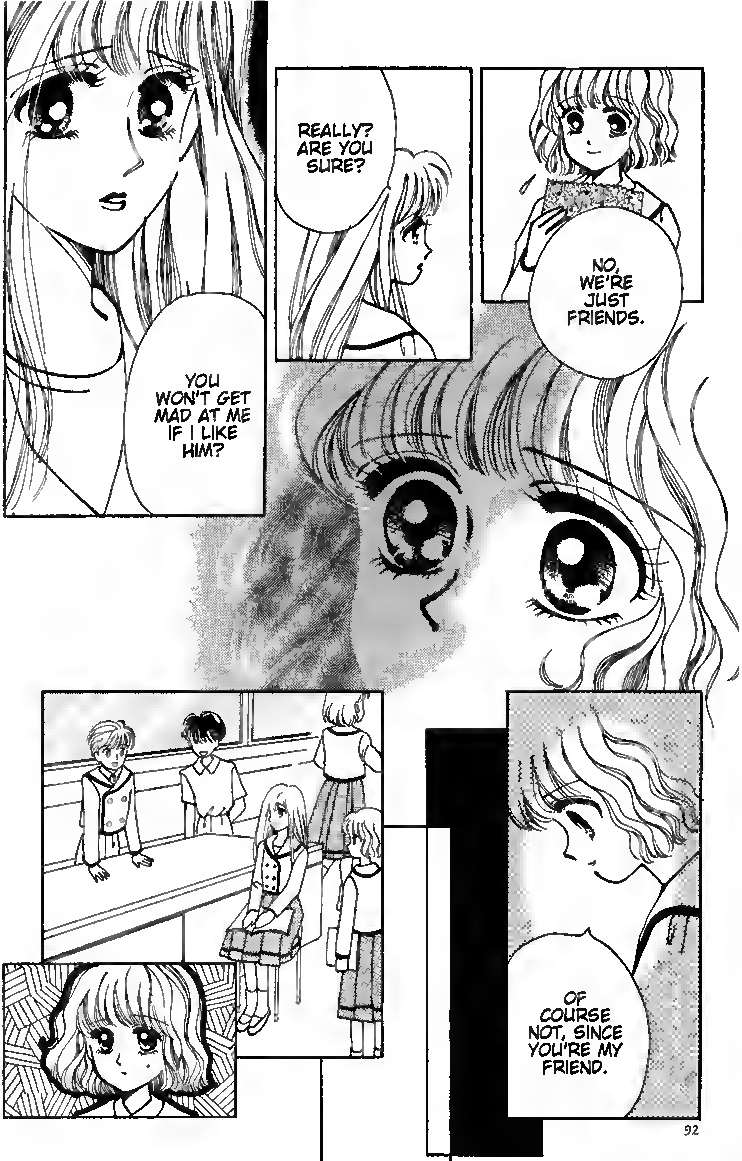

RENA, DO YOU WANT TO GO?
?
RENA, THIS IS YOUR FIRST STEP!
NO.
I'M GOING TO JOIN.
REALLY? I'M GOING TO JOIN, TOO!
ME TOO!
YOU'VE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE!



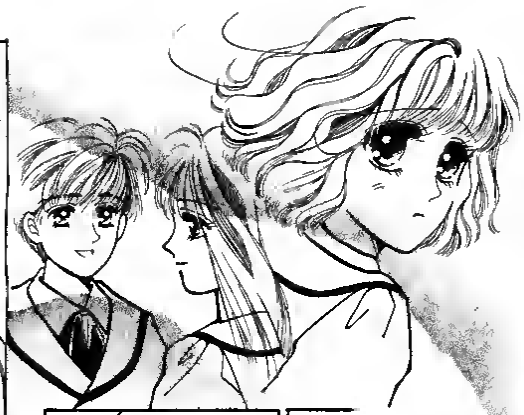

**Omake 3** THERE WAS A BONUS SECTION CALLED "TOMOKO'S ROOM" FOR ONE OF MY COMIC SERIES. IT FEATURED AN ART CONTEST EVERY MONTH. I WANTED TO THANK YOU, MY FANS, THAT SENT IN A PORTRAIT OF ME! I COULD ONLY SHOWCASE ABOUT 10% OF WHAT I RECEIVED. I'M SORRY! I JUST WANTED TO LET EVERYBODY KNOW THAT I REALLY APPRECIATED ALL THE ARTWORK! EVERY MONTH, I LOOKED AT EACH ONE REPEATEDLY WITH A BIG SMILE ON MY FACE. I STILL SHOW THEM TO MY FRIENDS. SOME OF YOU SENT ME MULTIPLE ILLUSTRATIONS! THE TALENT AND SKILL LEVEL WAS AMAZING! WHEN I REPLIED TO SOME OF YOU, I RECEIVED A LOT OF THANK-YOU LETTERS! I'M SO THRILLED TO HAVE WONDERFUL PEOPLE AS MY FANS! BY THE WAY, THIS STORY IS BASED ON MY LIFE, BUT MY DORM NEVER HAD ANY BOYS BREAKING IN. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT! THE STAFF AT THE DORMITORY TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME! THANK YOU!

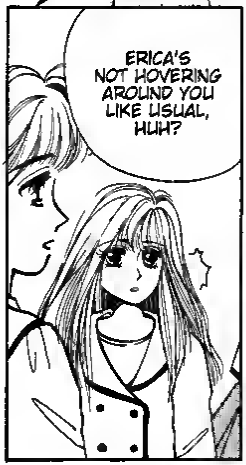

I BET YOU'RE JEALOUS, MINORUJI!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO THE REST-ROOM!
WAIT UP!
HI! HOW ARE YOU?
OH WOW!
THIS IS SO EASY!
KURE
KURE
KURE
KURE
KU
I WANT THEM NOW!
HI ERICA, RENA! WELCOME BACK!
ラウンジ LOUNGE
HI ! WE MAKE COOKIES AT SCHOOL. LET'S GET TOGETHER LATER TO MUNCH ON THEM!

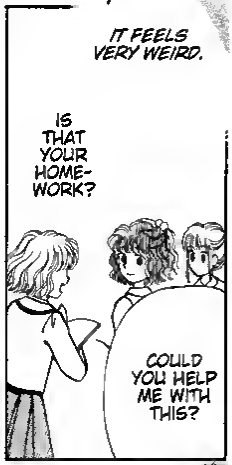

YOU GUYS ARE SO CLOSE. IN FRANCE, PEOPLE WOULD ASSUME YOU'RE LESBIANS!
WHAT!?
うえっ!
SORRY, BUT I'M STRAIGHT!
ME TOO!
I LOVE MACHO GUYS!
REALLY? I LIKE SKINNY GUYS. DRESSED IN BLACK. THE BAD BOY TYPE.
WHAT!? No kidding! ARE YOU 正気~~? CRAZY?!
I'M NOT TOO INTERESTED IN GUYS.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE MINORUJI.

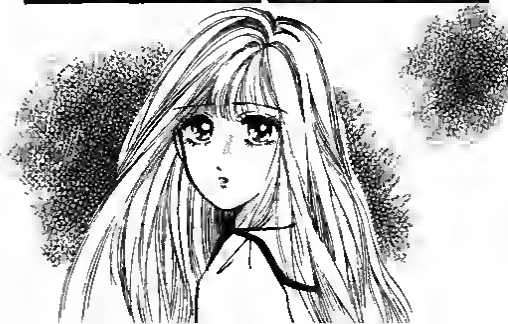

YOU WON'T GET MAD AT ME IF I LIKE HIM?
REALLY? ARE YOU SURE?
NO, WE'RE JUST FRIENDS.
OF COURSE NOT, SINCE YOU'RE MY FRIEND.

RELEASED BY VAP THE SAME COMPANY AS KAMACHI! (LAUGH)
VAP 6'S
MY COMICS ON SALE. "LET'S STAY TOGETHER FOREVER"
ALSO AVAILABLE!
THE CD IS
MY FRIEND REIKO UDO, IS THE SINGER! (THANKS!)
"AQUARIUM" THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
THE SAME PERSON AS P 73. IT LOOKS NOTHING LIKE THE MODEL! SORRY!
P.S.!!
I FINALLY PAID MY SUBSCRIPTION TO NHK!
SATURDAY EVENINGS ON NHK!
NHK
ALF
FINALLY! ALF WILL BE BROADCAST IN JAPAN! COOL! CHECK IT OUT! HE'S THE CUTEST ALIEN!
I WASN'T ABLE TO WATCH IT WHEN IT WAS ONLY AVAILABLE ON SATELLITE



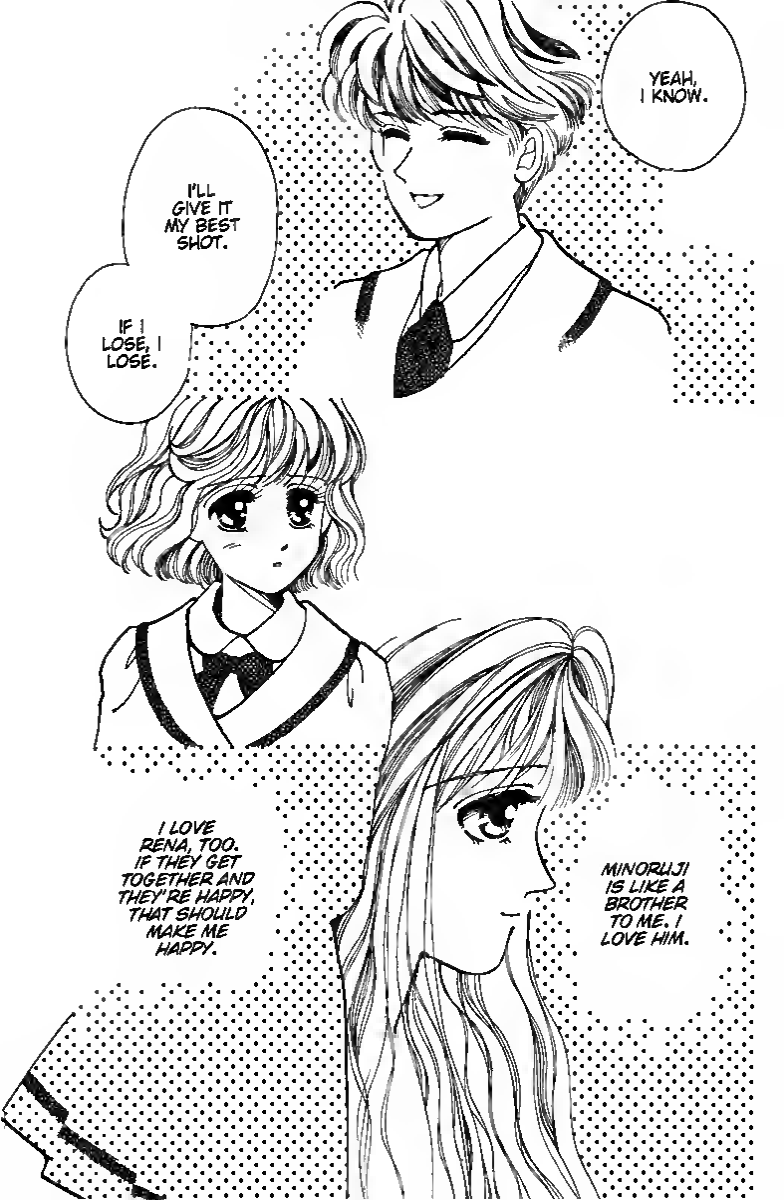

ERICA'S NOT HOVERING AROUND YOU LIKE USUAL, HUH?

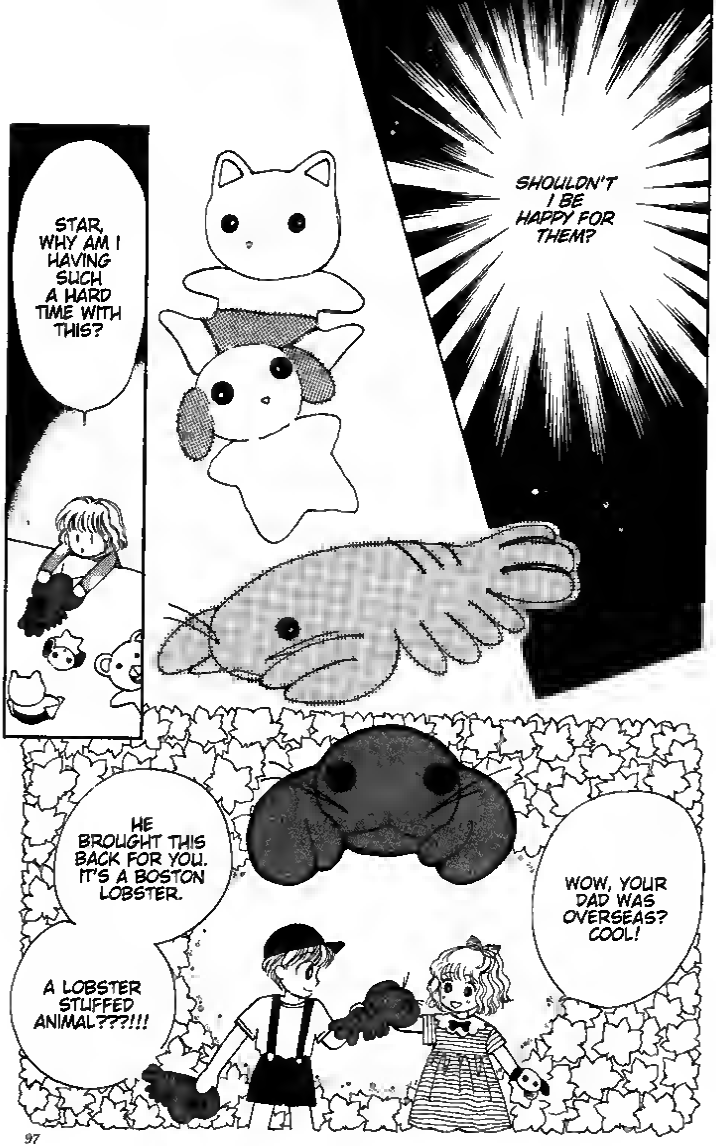

IT FEELS VERY WEIRD.
IS THAT YOUR HOME-WORK?
COULD YOU HELP ME WITH THIS?



SHE HANGS OUT WITH YOU ALL THE TIME. SHE DEPENDS ON YOU.
I DON'T THINK SO.
I PROBABLY DEPEND ON HER MORE.
ERICA... I REALLY LIKE RENA.

NOT YET. I WANTED TO TELL YOU FIRST.
I'LL TELL HER. EVEN-TUALLY.
HAVE YOU TOLD HER?
OH...
RENA LIKES YOU TOO.
YOU TWO WOULD MAKE A GREAT COUPLE.
SHE'S POPULAR WITH THE GUYS, SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COMPETE.


YEAH, I KNOW.
I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT.
IF I LOSE, I LOSE.
MINORU'S IS LIKE A BROTHER TO ME. I LOVE HIM.
I LOVE RENA, TOO. IF THEY GET TOGETHER AND THEY'RE HAPPY, THAT SHOULD MAKE ME HAPPY.


STAR, WHY AM I HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME WITH THIS?
SHOULDN'T I BE HAPPY FOR THEM?
HE BROUGHT THIS BACK FOR YOU. IT'S A BOSTON LOBSTER.
WOW, YOUR DAD WAS OVERSEAS? COOL!
A LOBSTER STUFFED ANIMAL???!!!

GRRRR
GRRR
GRRRR
OKAY!
hi there!
MY LOBSTER IS ROB, THE OLDER BROTHER.
I LIKE IT 'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE A DINO-SAUR!
YOUR DOLL IS STAR, THE YOUNGER SISTER!
I WONDER IF MINO-RUJI--
--STILL HAS ROB!

WERE YOU DOING YOUR LAUNDRY?
OH, YEAH, SINCE THE WEATHER WAS NICE TODAY.
TOK
TOK
UNGH

SUCH A NICE, SUNNY SUNDAY!
COME ON, YOU GUYS GET TO SUNBATHE, TOO.
FEELS GOOD, HUH?
I'M GOING TO THE SUPER-MARKET.
I NEED TO FINISH MY ERRANDS.
WARM
WARM
WARM
IF IT WAS CLOUDY, I'D EVEN BE MORE DEPRESSED.
POTATO CHIPS
POTATO CHIPS
POTATO CHIPS
STORE
I'LL TAKE STAR WITH ME TODAY.
what about me?
I CAN'T SIT STILL. I'LL GET DEPRESSED.

HEY BABY--
--YOU'LL GAIN WEIGHT IF YOU'RE JUST EATING JUNK FOOD.
CHOCOLATE
YOU HAVE AN ALIEN WITH YOU TODAY! WHERE'S THE OTHER ALIEN?
SHE'S NOT AN ALIEN!
Is he talking 'bout me?
SORRY!
YOU SCARED ME!
WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE?
I SEE! IT'S A LOBSTER!
A LOBSTER..

GROCERY SHOPPING?
I LIKE TO COOK. I MAKE KILLER OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS.
YEAH, I HEAR STUFFED ANIMALS GET DUST MITES, TOO.
THEY'RE SUNBATHING. THE WEATHER'S NICE TODAY.
DUST MITES!
SHOCK!
ストアー
STORE
COME OVER FOR DINNER WITH SOPHIE! SHE LOVES MY OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS.
OWWWW! いたた
WELL, I'M HEADED THIS WAY...

OH MY GOD! ARE YOU OK?
MY STOMACH!
JUST SIT OVER HERE.
I FEEL BETTER NOW.
WERE YOU JOKING AROUND?
YOU BOUGHT IT? DID IT LOOK GOOD? I'M TRYING TO IMPROVE MY ACTING TECHNIQUES.

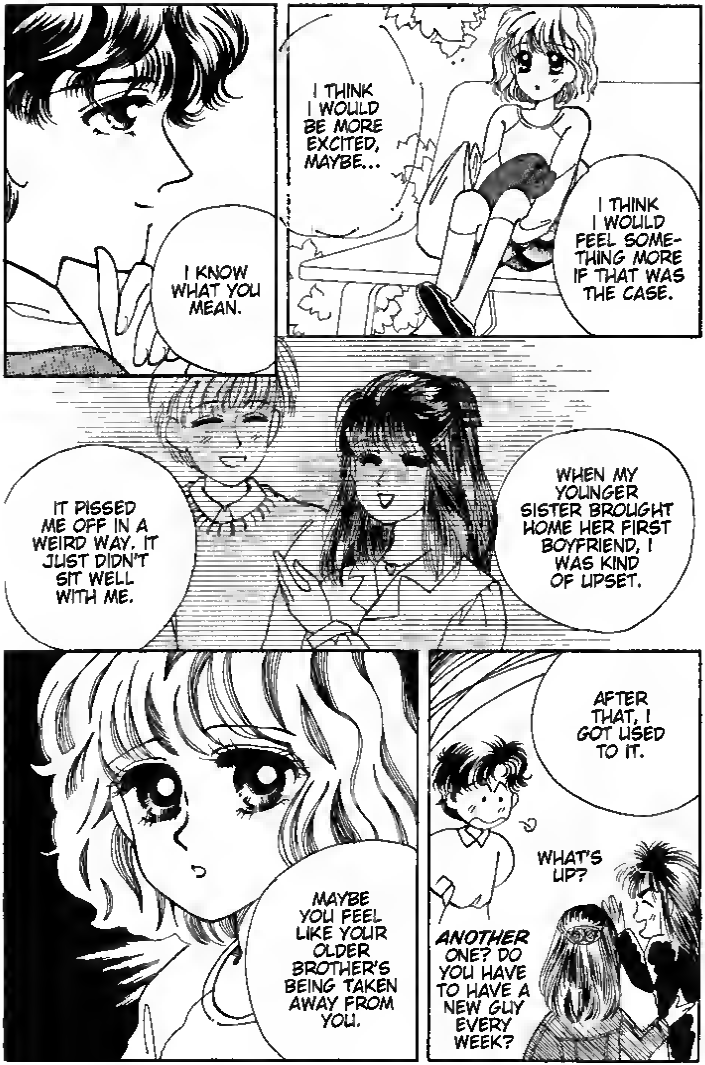
I SEE! THAT'S WHY YOU HAD A WIG--
--WHEN YOU SNEAKED INTO THE DORM!
JULIE CHEN
IT'S A NICE DAY! HANG OUT WITH ME.
GRIN
YOUR GROCERIES ARE GOING TO GO BAD.
YOU'RE BUYING LOTS OF SNACKS. ARE YOU GOING ON A FIELD TRIP?
I'M NOT IN GRADE SCHOOL!
FIELD TRIPS HAPPEN IN JUNIOR HIGH, TOO.
JUNIOR HIGH...!
IT'S BECAUSE I'M A BIT DEPRESSED.
TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, I GUESS...

## ★ Omake 5 ★

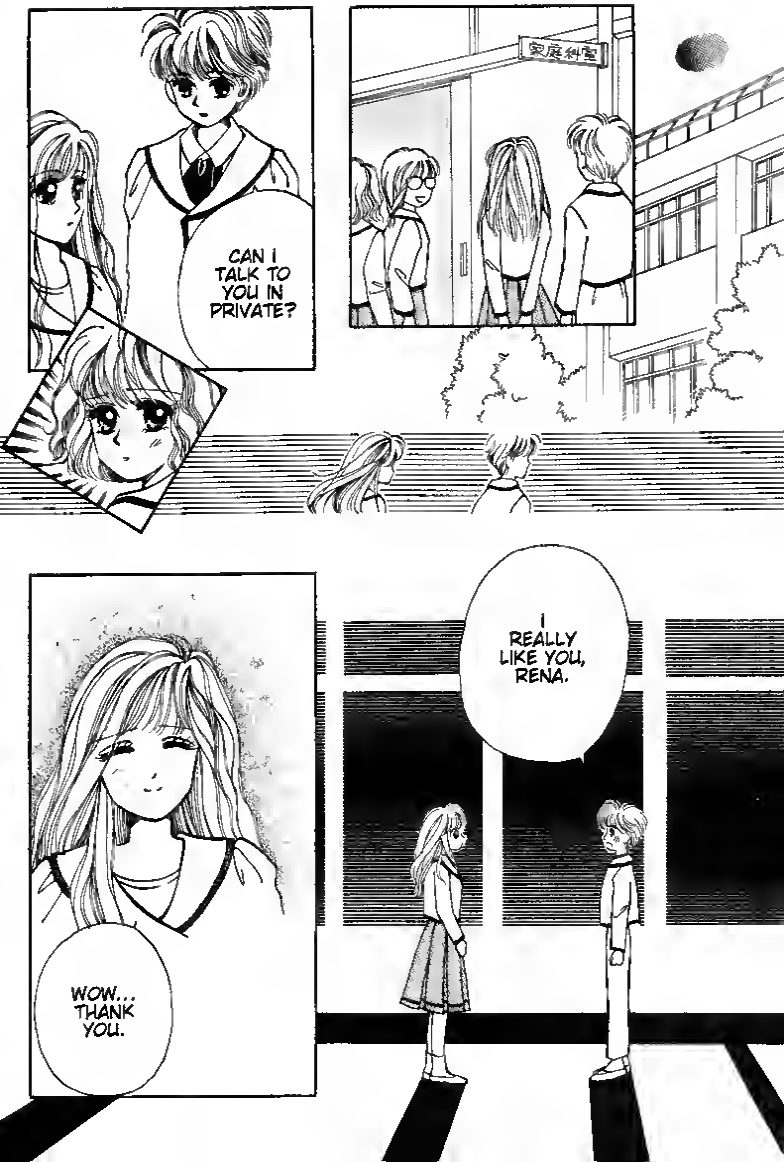
USING "KAMACHI" AS RENA'S LAST NAME IS SUCH AN OBVIOUS SIGN THAT I'M A BIG FAN (GIGGLE). ACTUALLY, I BASED RENA ON THE TYPE OF GIRL THAT WOULD BE A BIG FAN OF KAMACHI. A GIRL WITH SKINNY, LONG LEGS, AND LONG, STRAIGHT HAIR, POSSIBLY BLEACHED. SOMEBODY THAT'S KIND OF HARD TO APPROACH, BUT ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM, THEY'RE REALLY SWEET. I HEARD THAT GIRLS THAT ENJOY THIS KIND OF MUSIC ARE KIND OF SCARY, BUT AFTER TALKING TO A LOT OF THEM, THEY'RE USUALLY VERY NICE. I HOPE THIS COMES ACROSS IN RENA'S CHARACTER. EITHER WAY, I REALLY LIKE GIRLS LIKE RENA. I LIKE TO GO TO CONCERTS AND WATCH ALL THE FUN AND EXTREME CLOTHES THAT THE FANS LIKE TO WEAR.

SOMETIMES, I CAN BE RUDE AND STARE, BUT IT'S BECAUSE I THINK IT'S SO COOL! AS A RESULT, I GET PEOPLE GIVING ME THE "WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT" LOOKS. I'M SORRY! I'M JUST JEALOUS, BECAUSE I CAN'T PULL IT OFF LIKE THEY CAN. I DON'T HAVE THE FIGURE FOR IT.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? YOU CAN TALK TO ME.
I SEE.
THAT MEANS YOU LIKE MINORUJI, RIGHT?
IF I LIKED MINORUJI, I WOULD FEEL SOMETHING WHEN I'M WITH HIM...
I'M NOT SURE.
IT HURTS TO SEE THEM TOGETHER.


I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I THINK I WOULD BE MORE EXCITED, MAYBE...
I THINK I WOULD FEEL SOMETHING MORE IF THAT WAS THE CASE.
IT PISSED ME OFF IN A WEIRD WAY. IT JUST DIDN'T SIT WELL WITH ME.
WHEN MY YOUNGER SISTER BROUGHT HOME HER FIRST BOYFRIEND, I WAS KIND OF UPSET.
MAYBE YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR OLDER BROTHER'S BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU.
AFTER THAT, I GOT USED TO IT.
WHAT'S UP?
ANOTHER ONE? DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE A NEW GUY EVERY WEEK?

THAT COULD BE...
MY SISTER IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE MY SISTER, EVEN IF SHE HAS BOYFRIENDS.
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I'M FEELING...
EVEN IF MINORUJI HAS A GIRL-FRIEND--
--HE'S STILL GOING TO BE LIKE A BIG BROTHER TO YOU.
FEMALE STUDENT DORMITORY
EVENTUALLY, YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
HE'S RIGHT.


CAN I TALK TO YOU IN PRIVATE?
I REALLY LIKE YOU, RENA.
WOW... THANK YOU.

I THINK SHE'S BEEN AVOIDING ME LATELY.
HAVE YOU TALKED TO ERICA?
SHE DIDN'T DROP BY YESTERDAY TO HANG OUT AND WE DIDN'T EAT DINNER TOGETHER.
THAT'S FINE WITH ME, BUT SHE'S BEEN SO ATTACHED TO ME. DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S WEIRD?
I LIKE YOU TOO, MINORU.
BUT I VALUE MY FRIENDSHIP WITH ERICA.

WHERE'S ERICA?
SHE LEFT EARLY. SHE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING.
ERICA?
コン
コン

MINORUJI? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
OH MY GOD! YOU'RE DRESSED IN DRAG, TOO!
SHH! BE QUIET! JUST LET ME IN!
WOW, THAT WAS NERVE-WRACKING!
HEE HEE HEE
RENA GOT ME THROUGH THE LOBBY--
--BUT I WAS SO NERVOUS THAT SOMEONE WOULD FIND OUT!
OH..

IT'S HARD TO TALK AT SCHOOL OR IN PUBLIC.
WERE YOU ASLEEP? IT'S ONLY 8:00.
RENA TOLD ME THAT HAVING YOU AS A FRIEND HAS MADE HER LIFE AT SCHOOL SO MUCH BETTER.
SHE REALLY VALUES YOU AS HER FRIEND.
ERICA, ARE YOU REALLY OK WITH THE FACT--
--THAT I LIKE RENA?
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD HURT YOU.
YOU'RE ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS.

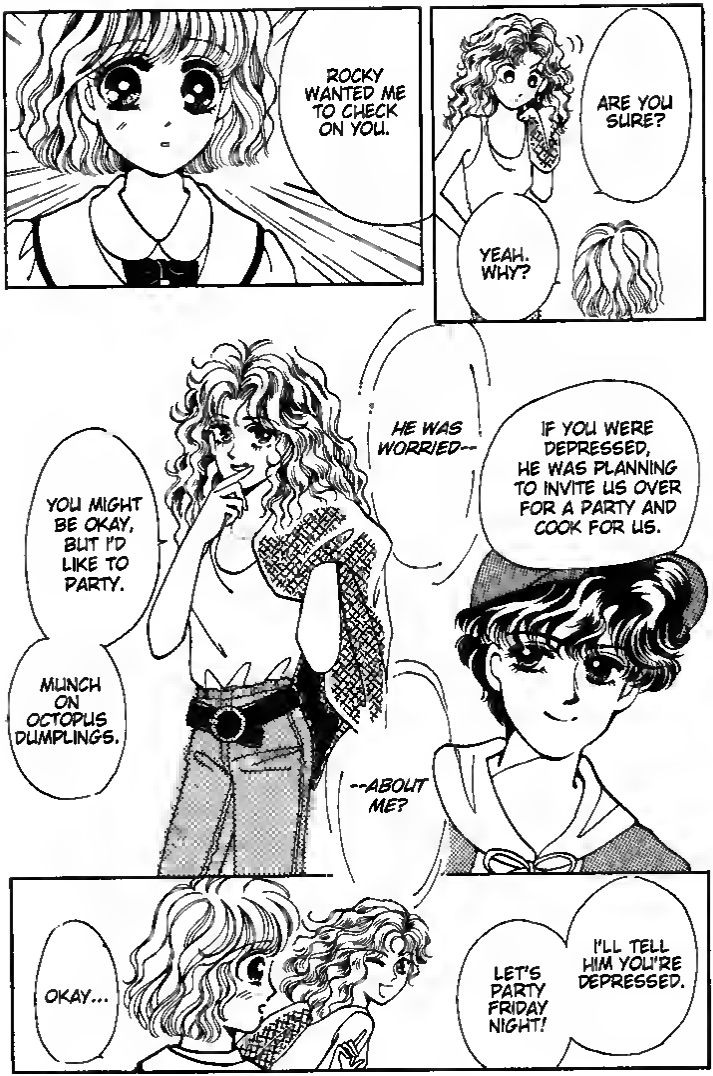
YOU'RE ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS...
--I WASN'T SURE WHAT I WAS FEELING, BUT I FELT REALLY LONELY.
MINORUJI, I--
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE A BROTHER TO ME--
--AND I DIDN'T WANT THAT TO CHANGE!

DON'T WORRY. I'M STILL YOUR BIG BROTHER.
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY BIG BROTHER, RIGHT?
ERICA, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE ONE OF MY VERY BEST FRIENDS.

THAT'S STAR, RIGHT?
SHOULD I BRING ROB OVER?
my brother!
YOU STILL HAVE HIM?
OF COURSE! I DON'T TALK TO MY DOLLS LIKE YOU DO, THOUGH.

GOOD NIGHT!
GOOD NIGHT!
!

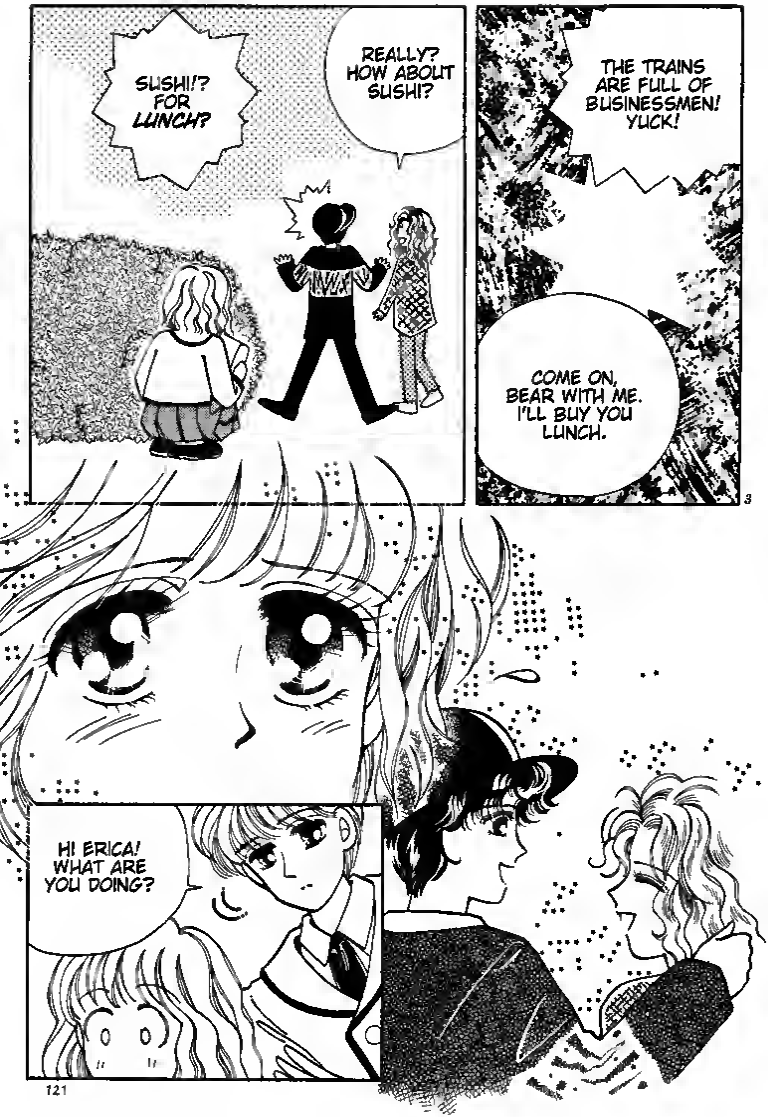
WANT SOME COOKIES? I EVEN HAVE CHOCOLATE COOKIES!
YAWN
I'M SLEEPY TONIGHT. MAYBE TOMORROW!
I SHOULD SNEAK IN G. IN!
D. ZED
GO HOME ALREADY!
GIRLS WALK AROUND IN SKIMPY CLOTHES LIKE THAT?
MINORUJI'S NERVOUSNESS DISAPPEARED INTO EXCITEMENT BY THE TIME HE WENT HOME.
3
HI SOPHIE! I'M FINE, THANKS!
GOOD MORNING ERICA! HOW ARE YOU?


ROCKY WANTED ME TO CHECK ON YOU.
ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH. WHY?
HE WAS WORRIED--
IF YOU WERE DEPRESSED, HE WAS PLANNING TO INVITE US OVER FOR A PARTY AND COOK FOR US.
YOU MIGHT BE OKAY, BUT I'D LIKE TO PARTY.
MUNCH ON OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS.
--ABOUT ME?
OKAY...
LET'S PARTY FRIDAY NIGHT!
I'LL TELL HIM YOU'RE DEPRESSED.

HE'S USUALLY JOKING AROUND, BUT--
--HE LISTENED TO ME LAST TIME.
ROCKY'S A REALLY SWEET GUY!
SOPHIE DID SAY THAT HE WASN'T HER BOYFRIEND...
I WONDER...
IS IT TRUE?

♥ Omake 6 ♥

ASIDE FROM RENA, THE OTHER CHARACTERS LIKE ROCKY, MINORUJI AND SOPHIE WERE BASED ON FRIENDS I MET DURING MY TRIP TO LA. THE PERSON THAT SOPHIE WAS BASED ON REMINDED ME OF JOEY TEMPEST. HOWEVER, SHE HATED HEAVY METAL, SO SHE WAS UPSET. OOOPS! CURRENTLY, SHE IS BACK IN FRANCE, ENJOYING THE CUISINE! HER ENGLISH HAD A LOVELY FRENCH ACCENT! ROCKY IS BASED ON A GUY IN LA TRYING TO BREAK INTO ACTING. THE GUY IS FROM OSAKA, AND HE CAN BE A PERVERT BUT HE WAS REALLY SWEET. HE TOOK THE TIME TO LISTEN TO ME GAB ABOUT MY PERSONAL ISSUES, SO I MADE SURE ROCKY CAME ACROSS AS A COOL, SWEET CHARACTER! HOPEFULLY, HE'LL RETURN TO JAPAN AS A FAMOUS ACTOR! HIS OSAKA ACCENT WAS KIND OF FUNNY BECAUSE HE'S BEEN AWAY FROM JAPAN FOR SO LONG, SO ROCKY'S CHARACTER HAS A WEIRD OSAKA ACCENT AS WELL (LAUGH). I'M SORRY IF I INSULTED ANYBODY WITH AN OSAKA ACCENT! (ROCKY WAS UPSET THAT I MADE HIM SPEAK IN A SCREWED-UP ACCENT!)


SUSHI!? FOR LUNCH?
REALLY? HOW ABOUT SUSHI?
THE TRAINS ARE FULL OF BUSINESSMEN! YUCK!
COME ON, BEAR WITH ME. I'LL BUY YOU LUNCH.
3
HI ERICA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GOOD MORNING ERICA!
OH, UH...GOOD MORNING!
OOOPS!
IS THIS MINORU THE GEEZER?
WHAT!?
YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT MY NICKNAME?
I'M SORRY!

SEE, ERICA? EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW, HUH?
YEAH.
?
OH YEAH, SINCE ERICA'S ALL RIGHT NOW...
ABOUT THE PARTY FRIDAY NIGHT...?
YOU GOTTA DO IT! I WANT OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS!

ALL RIGHT. YOU WIN.
ARE YOU FREE FRIDAY NIGHT?
SURE...
COME OVER. I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU BRING YOUR ALIENS WITH YOU?
TWO ALIENS.
we're not aliens!
WHEN I WAS BUMMED OUT ABOUT YOU AND RENA,
ROCKY ASSURED ME THAT OUR FRIENDSHIP WOULDN'T CHANGE.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

WOW!! HE'S A GOOD GUY!
--IF I WAS DEPRESSED.
HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE A PARTY FOR ME--
OKAY, I GET IT NOW.
GOOD LUCK, ERICA!
ERICA, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU HAD A BOYFRIEND OR THREE.
WHAT? THREE?
GOOD LUCK? FOR WHAT?
HUH?
ERICA, HE PROBABLY LIKES YOU!
DON'T BE SHY!

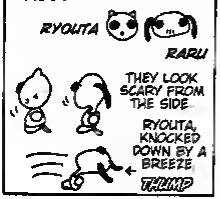
I'M LATE! SORRY! I DIDN'T GET UP ON TIME.
ゼー
PANTING
I THINK ROCKY AND SOPHIE MIGHT BE DATING, THOUGH...
RUSH
バタタ
RUSH
OH, REALLY?
STAYING UP WATCHING THE TUBE?
OH, BY THE WAY...
THEY PROBABLY WANT TO BE ALONE.
I'LL GO AHEAD OF THEM.
スッ
SLIP

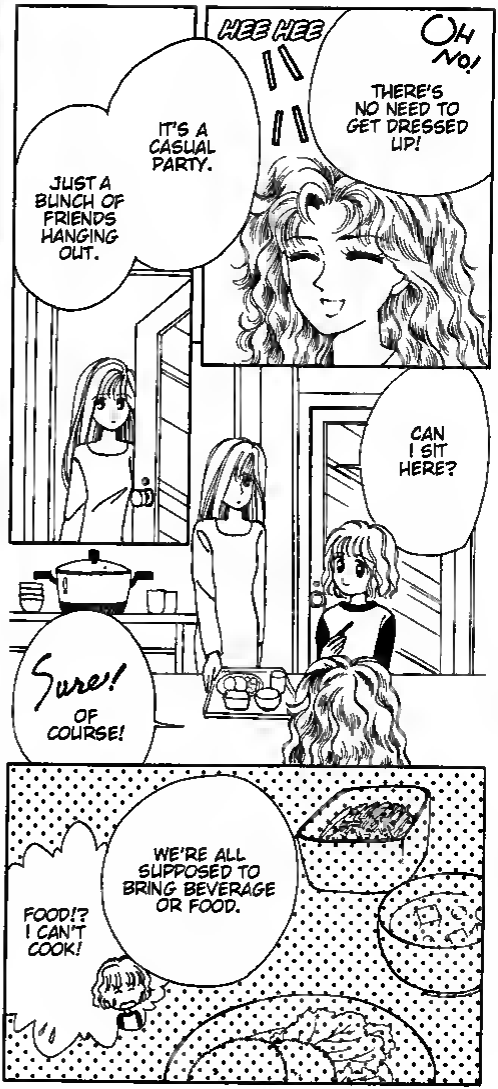
NO. I ALREADY TALKED TO HER.
IS ERICA STILL MAD ABOUT US?
WAIT, MINORUJI ISN'T MY BOYFRIEND--
MAYBE IT'S THE SAME CASE WITH ROCKY AND SOPHIE?
--BUT OTHER PEOPLE, INCLUDING RENA, THOUGHT HE WAS.
A BOY-FRIEND? A GUY OTHER THAN MINORUJI?

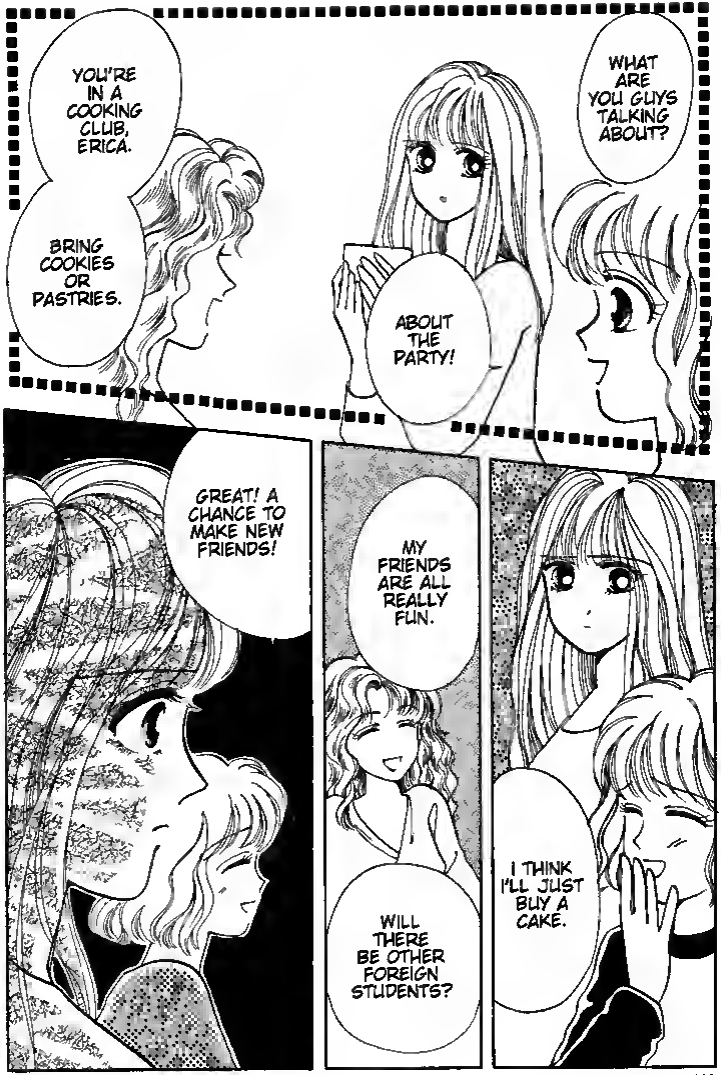
SURE!
LET'S EAT DINNER, ERICA!
I CAN'T EXPECT MINORUJI TO BE THERE FOR ME ALL THE TIME ANYMORE.
DINING HALL
I CAN'T WAIT 'TIL FRIDAY!
ROCKY LIVES NEAR HERE.
A BOY-FRIEND MIGHT BE A GOOD THING...
OH. SO, WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO THE PARTY?
As long as the guy likes me, I'm cool with it!

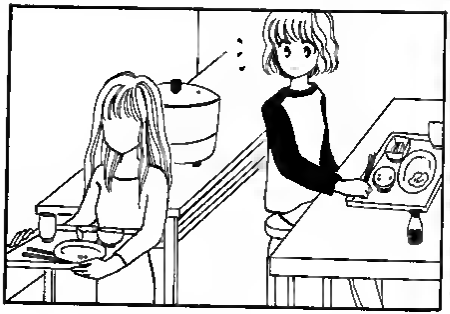
## Omake 7

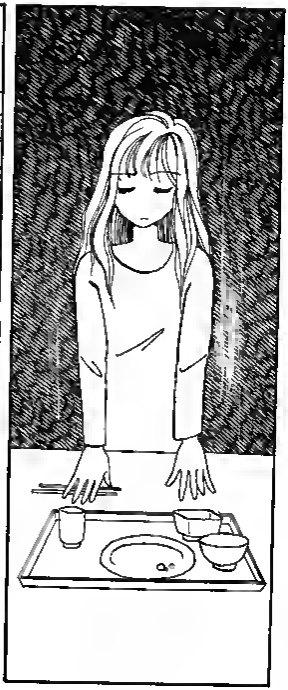
MINORU-JI'S CHARACTER WAS BASED ON A GUY WE USED TO CALL "GEEZER MINORU (LAUGH)." HE WAS STUDYING IN L.A., AND HE WAS REALLY POPULAR WITH THE PRETTY BLONDES! WHAT A LUCKY GUY! I THINK GUYS WITH BIG DREAMS ARE SO COOL! I'M JUST HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO MEET ALL THESE GREAT PEOPLE. SANTARO'S MODEL: MY BEST FRIEND USED TO HAVE AN OLD, RAGGED STUFFED ♡ ANIMAL. IT WAS CALLED "RARURIN," AND IT WAS A CAT. HER FRIEND HAD A WORN-OUT STUFFED ANIMAL OF A DOG CALLED "RYOUTA." SANTARO IS KIND OF A COMBINATION OF BOTH RARURIN AND RYOUTA. THEY WERE BOTH SERIOUSLY ATTACHED TO THEIR STUFFED ANIMALS, WHICH WAS A BIT STRANGE. THEIR FRIENDS WERE FREAKED OUT BY THE DOLLS BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THE DOLLS WERE POSSESSED BY SPIRITS. THEIR PICTURES ARE ON THE FINAL OMAKE PAGE.

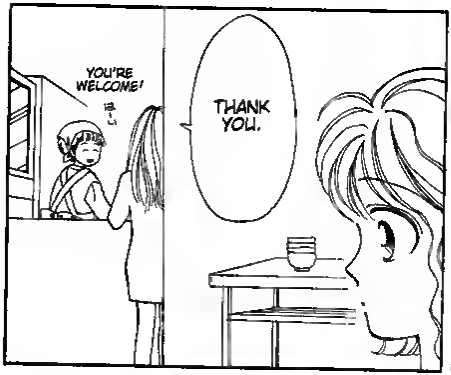


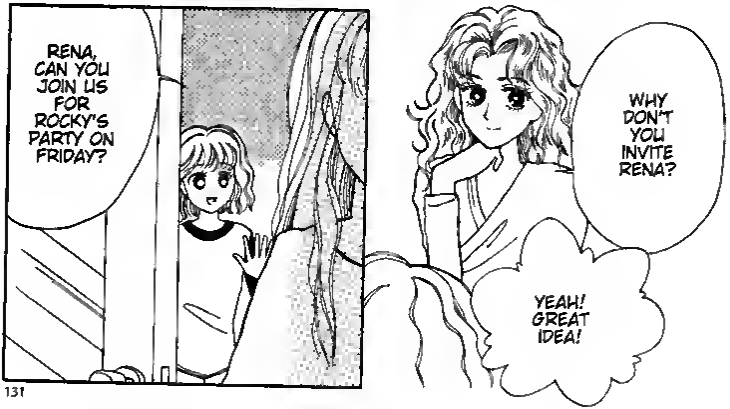


HEE HEE
OH NO!
THERE'S NO NEED TO GET DRESSED UP!
IT'S A CASUAL PARTY.
JUST A BUNCH OF FRIENDS HANGING OUT.
CAN I SIT HERE?
Sure! OF COURSE!
WE'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO BRING BEVERAGE OR FOOD.
FOOD!? I CAN'T COOK!

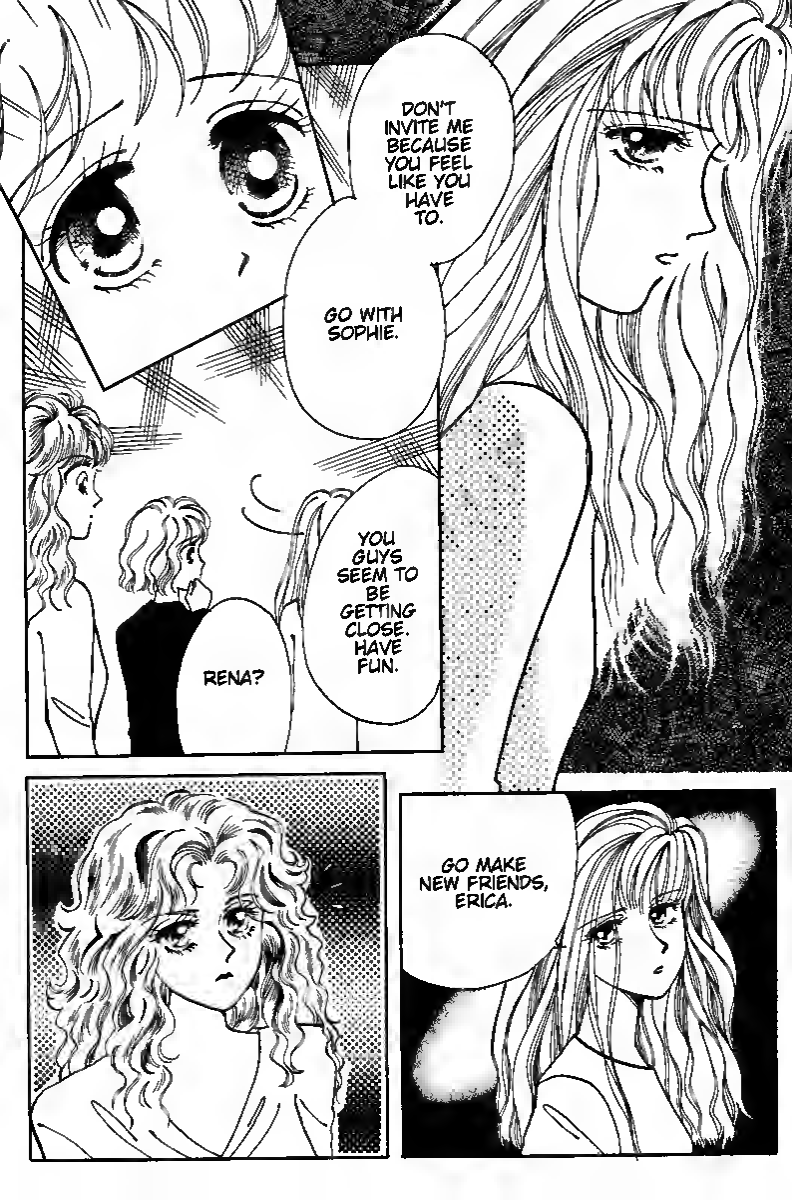

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
ABOUT THE PARTY!
YOU'RE IN A COOKING CLUB, ERICA.
BRING COOKIES OR PASTRIES.
I THINK I'LL JUST BUY A CAKE.
MY FRIENDS ARE ALL REALLY FUN.
WILL THERE BE OTHER FOREIGN STUDENTS?
GREAT! A CHANCE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS!






YOU'RE WELCOME!
THANK YOU.


RENA, CAN YOU JOIN US FOR ROCKY'S PARTY ON FRIDAY?
WHY DON'T YOU INVITE RENA?
YEAH! GREAT IDEA!


DON'T INVITE ME BECAUSE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO.
GO WITH SOPHIE.
YOU GUYS SEEM TO BE GETTING CLOSE. HAVE FUN.
RENA?
GO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, ERICA.

I SAID YOU SHOULD BOTH GO WITH ME, DIDN'T I?
O.K.!!
Yes, we will!!
AND WE WILL!
HMMM? SO ERICA CAN'T MAKE NEW FRIENDS?
YOU IMPLIED IT.
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
RENA, SOPHIE...
RENA'S ACTING LIKE A BABY.

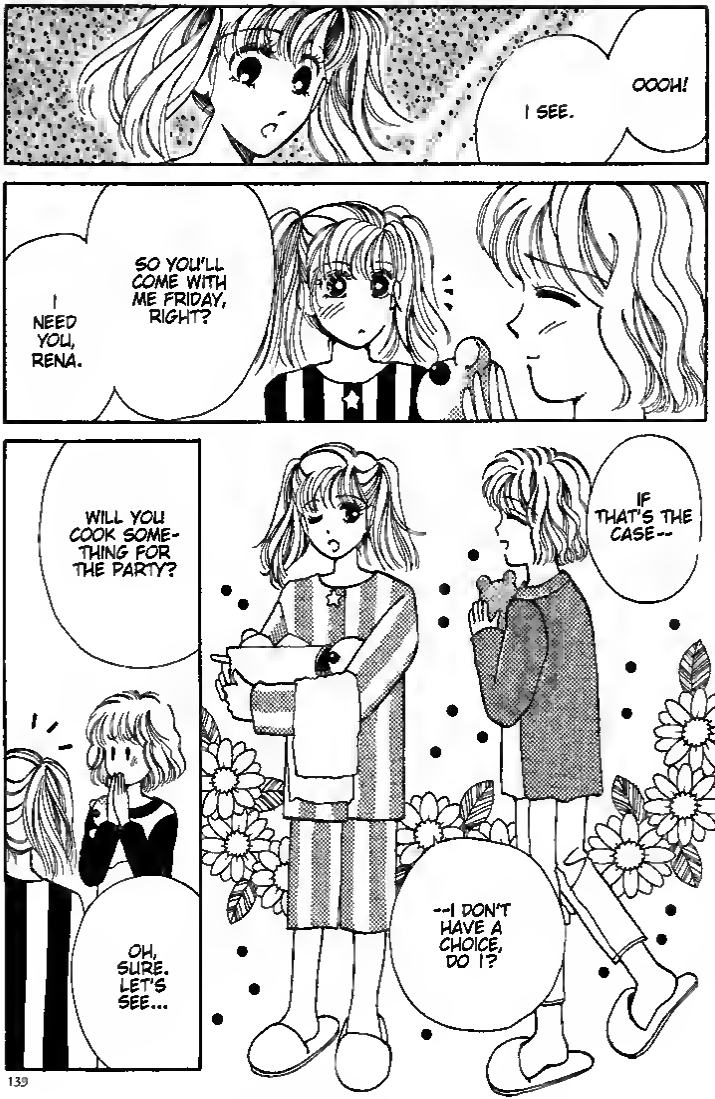
RENA? A BABY?
I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE THAT WAS ALWAYS ACTING LIKE A BABY...
カチャ…
ROCKY WANTS ME TO BRING SANTARO,
SO I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD BRING TOM, TOO.
RENA? GOING TO TAKE A BATH?
バタン…
THUD

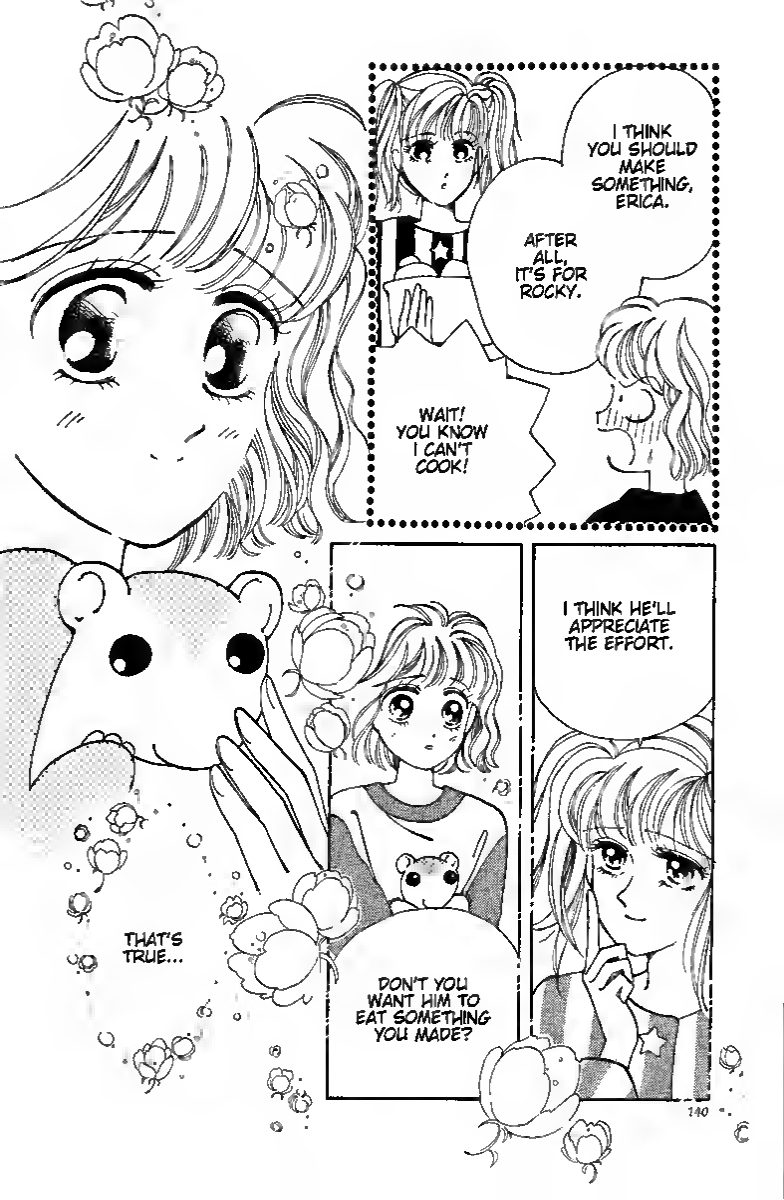
HERE YOU GO.
FINE.
JUST GO WITH ERICA AND SANTARO!
YOU'RE BEING COLD. IT'S BECAUSE I'M ADOPTED, HUH?
COME ON, MOM, COME WITH US!
I'LL BE LONELY WITHOUT YOU!

BUT...
THAT'S NOT FAIR, ERICA!
YOU KNOW I CAN'T REFUSE TOM!
GRAB
YOUR MOM ERICA ISN'T LYING TO ME, RIGHT?
FINE, I'LL ASK SANTARO.
SHE SAID IT WAS OKAY IF I LIKED MINORU.
IS SHE REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?
you're choking me!

SHE DOESN'T NEED ME AS A FRIEND ANYMORE. SHE HAS OTHER FRIENDS, LIKE SOPHIE.
MINORUJI'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE A BIG BROTHER TO HER, NO MATTER WHAT.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE UPSET BECAUSE OF MINORU AND ME.
REALLY?
OH MOM, YOU'RE STILL STRESSING OVER THAT?

YEAH, I FELT LONELY AT FIRST,
BUT I THINK I'LL GET A BOYFRIEND, TOO.
WELL, UH, I...
WAIT, YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A GUY OTHER THAN MINORU?
YOU DO, I KNOW IT! TELL ME! WHO!?
MAYBE SOMEBODY LIKE ROCKY.
I'M NOT SURE YET.


OOOH!
I SEE.
I NEED YOU, RENA.
SO YOU'LL COME WITH ME FRIDAY, RIGHT?
WILL YOU COOK SOMETHING FOR THE PARTY?
OH, SURE. LET'S SEE...
IF THAT'S THE CASE--
--I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, DO I?


I THINK YOU SHOULD MAKE SOMETHING, ERICA.
AFTER ALL, IT'S FOR ROCKY.
WAIT! YOU KNOW I CAN'T COOK!
I THINK HE'LL APPRECIATE THE EFFORT.
DON'T YOU WANT HIM TO EAT SOMETHING YOU MADE?
THAT'S TRUE...

Omake 8 TANIGUCHI COMICS

♥ LET'S STAY TOGETHER FOREVER

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE CD! YOU CAN LISTEN TO MY FRIEND SING!

♥ AQUARIUM

THEY'RE NOT METAL TUNES! =GIGGLE=

♥ CALL ME PRINCESS

ALSO

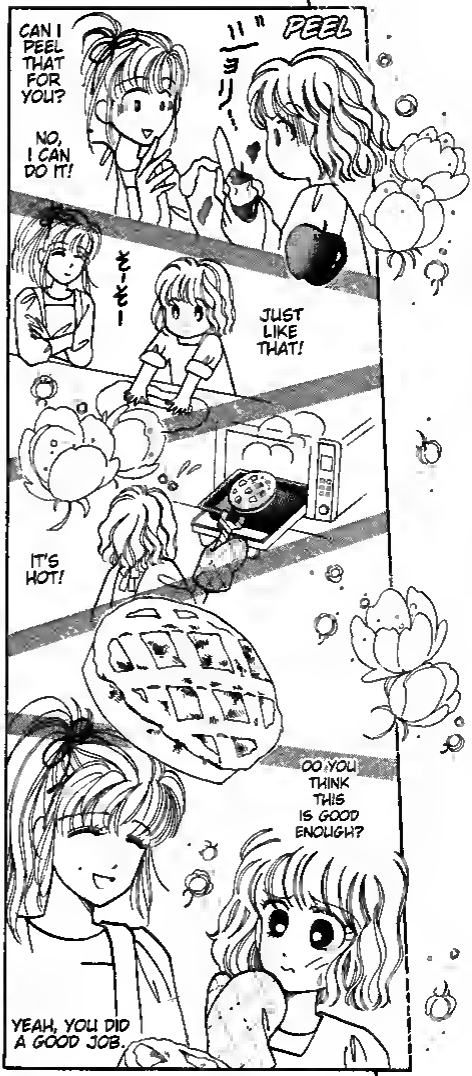
{MISS ME?}

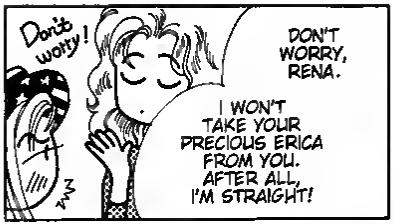
♥ THE OMAKE FEATURES MS. NORIKO KIMOTO! ♥

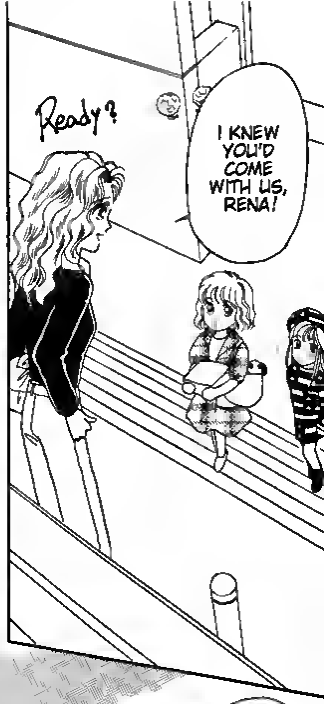
RECENTLY, I FOUND OUT THAT KAORI SUKUI REMEMBERS ME! THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY! WOOHOO!

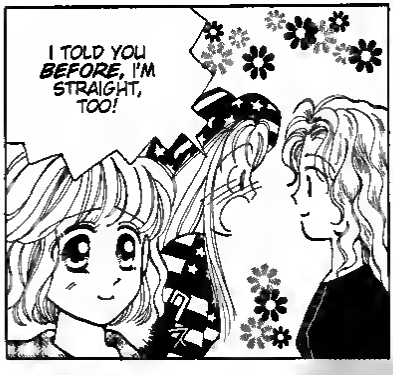
KAORI'S FEATURED ON THE RADIO SHOW "SUPERGANG"

YOU CAN HEAR IT MONDAY NIGHTS AT 1 AM ON TBS RADIO!




Don't worry!
DON'T WORRY, RENA.
I WON'T TAKE YOUR PRECIOUS ERICA FROM YOU. AFTER ALL, I'M STRAIGHT!


Ready?
I KNEW YOU'D COME WITH US, RENA!


I TOLD YOU BEFORE, I'M STRAIGHT, TOO!

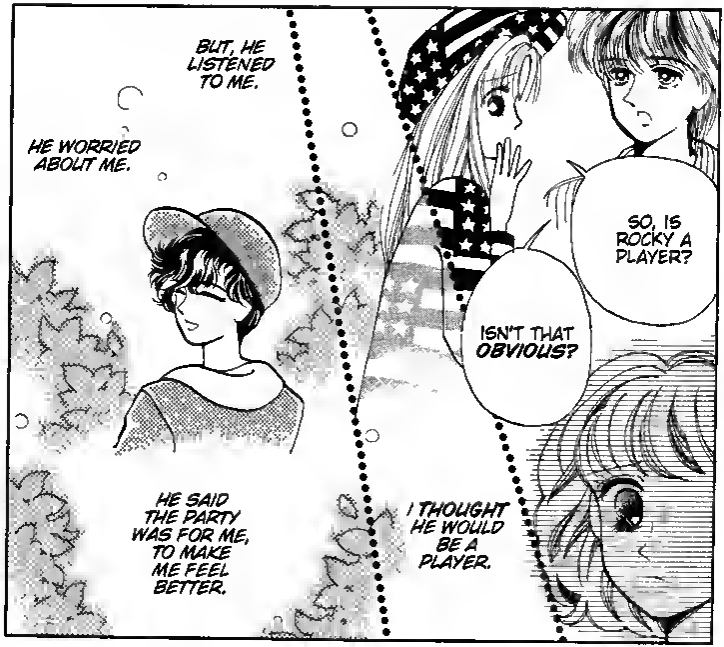
KNOCK KNOCK
CHECK OUT THE APARTMENT COMPLEX.
IT LOOKS LIKE A CASTLE! HOW CUTE!
A LOT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS LIVE THERE. KIND OF LIKE OUR DORM.

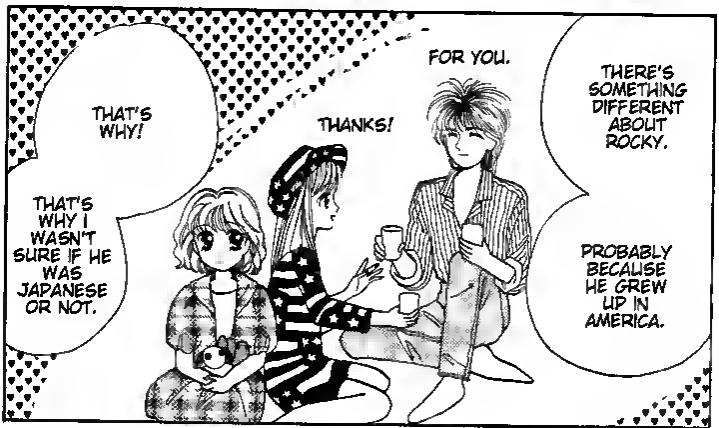
COME IN!
Hi Sophie!
BIG APART-MENT!
LOTS OF FOREIGNERS!
WOW, THIS IS MULTI-CULTURAL!
Hi Janet
THIS IS FROM ME.
IT'S KIND OF UGLY, AND IT MIGHT NOT BE VERY GOOD.
I MADE IT, SO...
OH, THANKS!

WHAT?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I CAN'T SERVE THIS TO THE GUESTS!
カパ
FWIP
STOP IT! DON'T BE A JERK!
IT'S A JOKE!
ケケッ
HEH HEH
VERY ANGRY
Erica & Rena
Hello
THAT WASN'T VERY FUNNY...

AFTER ALL, THAT WAS MY FIRST ATTEMPT AT BAKING FOR A GUY!
ARE THE DUMPLINGS READY, ROCKY?
UH-HUH. THEY'RE READY.
Thanks, I Love it!
LOOKS YUMMY!
LET'S CHOW!
HERE, ERICA!

MUNCH MUNCH
WHO ARE THOSE GIRLS?
THEY'RE ALL OVER HIM!
OH
HI! I'M RONNY. I LIVE NEXT DOOR.
HOW DID YOU MEET ROCKY? I BET HE HIT ON YOU, HUH?
NO, WE LIVE IN THE SAME DORM AS SOPHIE.
WHERE'S SOPHIE?
YUM YUM
YUM!
YAKISOBA
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND.
BUSY EATING


BUT, HE LISTENED TO ME.
HE WORRIED ABOUT ME.
SO, IS ROCKY A PLAYER?
ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?
HE SAID THE PARTY WAS FOR ME, TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE A PLAYER.


FOR YOU.
THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT ROCKY.
THANKS!
THAT'S WHY!
PROBABLY BECAUSE HE GREW UP IN AMERICA.
THAT'S WHY I WASN'T SURE IF HE WAS JAPANESE OR NOT.

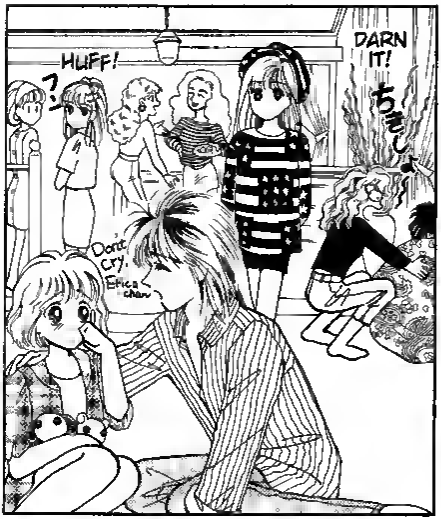
ROCKY, I WANT MORE DUMPLINGS!
YOSHI-TOMO!
YOSHITOMO, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY THE CAKE I BAKED?
YOU'RE GOING TO OVEREAT!
HER CAKE LOOKS DELICIOUS.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ROCKY.
NOT EVEN HIS FULL NAME.
SOPHIE CALLS HIM ROCKY, BUT--
--HE'S JAPANESE, SO IT MAKES SENSE THAT HIS REAL NAME IS JAPANESE.

WHERE'S ERICA'S APPLE PIE?
FOUND IT!
IT'S OK. YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHEER ME UP.
IT WAS YOUR FIRST TRY, AND YOU DID SO WELL!
A PIE IS HARDER TO MAKE. YOU CHALLENGED YOURSELF, ERICA!
HA! A SPONGE CAKE WITH WHIPPED CREAM IS EASY TO MAKE!
TH... THANKS.
HANDS OFF! YOU'RE EATING CHOCOLATE CAKE ALREADY.
I'M SURE THAT'S BETTER.

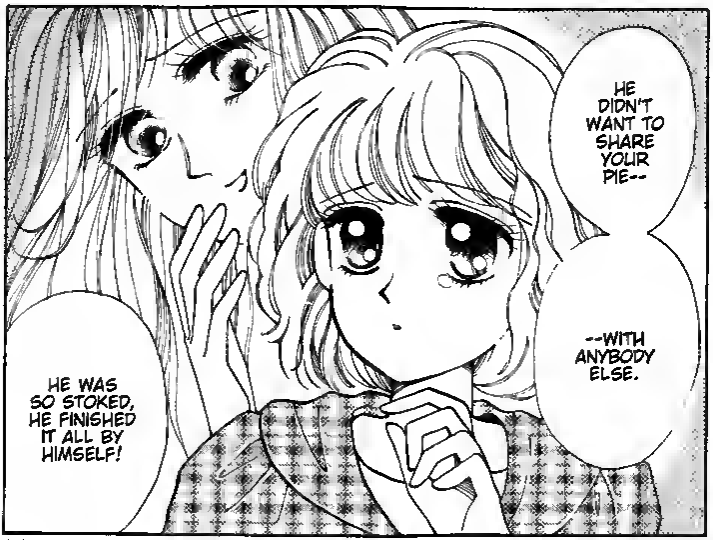
GIVE IT UP!
PULL
THIS IS FOR ME!
YOU'RE GOING TO CRUSH THE PIE!
STOP IT!
DOES MY PIE LOOK THAT BAD?
YOU WEREN'T JOKING.

YOSHITOMO, JUST ENJOY OUR CAKE.
WHY DON'T YOU LET SOPHIE HAVE THE PIE?
I'LL SLICE THE PIE, OKAY?
ALL THAT SHAKING CRUSHED THE PIE!
CRUSH
GIGGLE

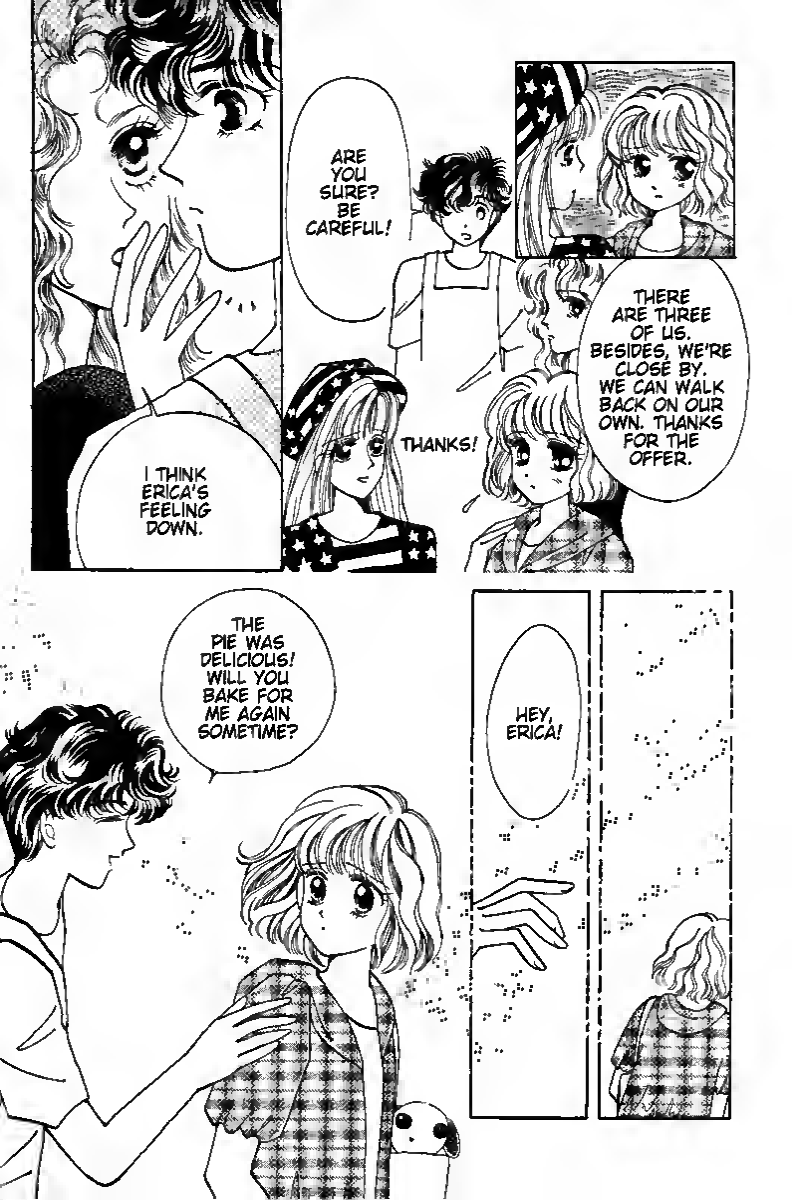
IT'S OKAY, ERICA. I'LL GO BEAT HIM UP FOR YOU.
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
ふんが
MUNCH
ぺん
OUCH!
SMACK!
JERK!

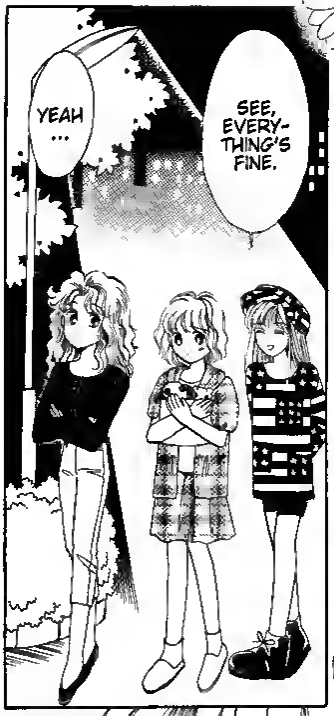

HUFF!
?
DARN IT!
ちきしょー
Don't cry, Erica-chan

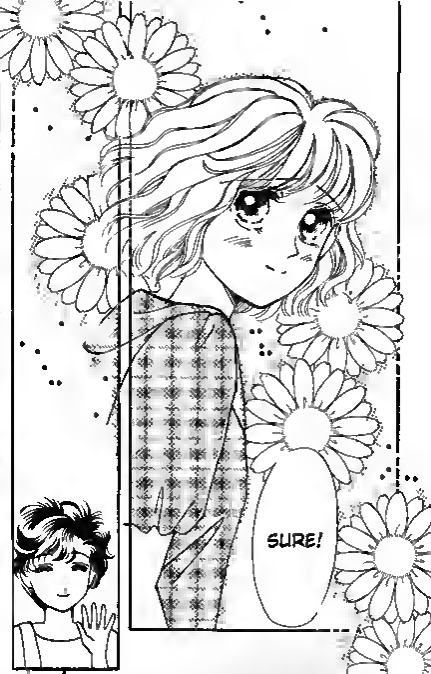
MUNCH
MUNCH
ガツ
ガツ

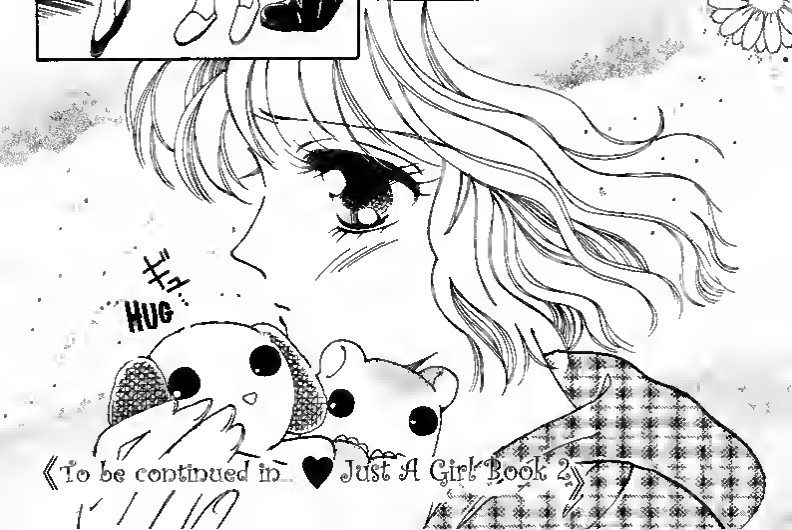

HE DIDN'T WANT TO SHARE YOUR PIE--
--WITH ANYBODY ELSE.
HE WAS SO STOKED, HE FINISHED IT ALL BY HIMSELF!

IF HE LET SOPHIE GET A HOLD OF IT, SHE WOULD HAVE FINISHED IT.
YOU'RE LYING.
NO I'M NOT! I KNOW GUYS, OKAY?
TRUST ME.
I'M SO STUPID.
WHY AM I UPSET?
WE HAVE A CURFEW, SO WE HAVE TO GO.
I'LL WALK YOU BACK. I HAVE TO WALK THEM BACK, TOO.


I THINK ERICA'S FEELING DOWN.
ARE YOU SURE? BE CAREFUL!
THANKS!
THERE ARE THREE OF US. BESIDES, WE'RE CLOSE BY. WE CAN WALK BACK ON OUR OWN. THANKS FOR THE OFFER.
HEY, ERICA!
THE PIE WAS DELICIOUS! WILL YOU BAKE FOR ME AGAIN SOMETIME?



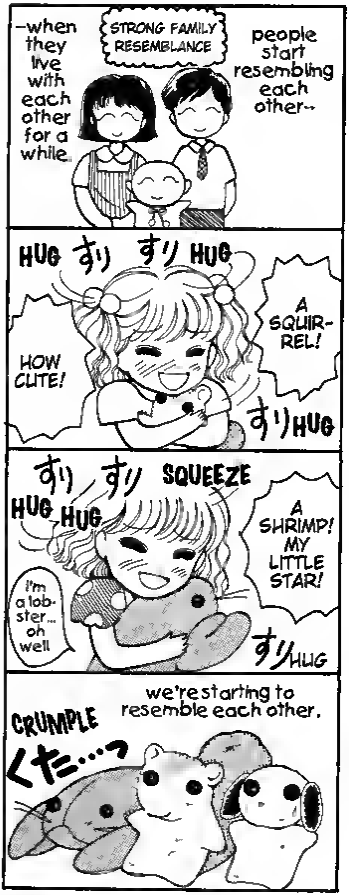



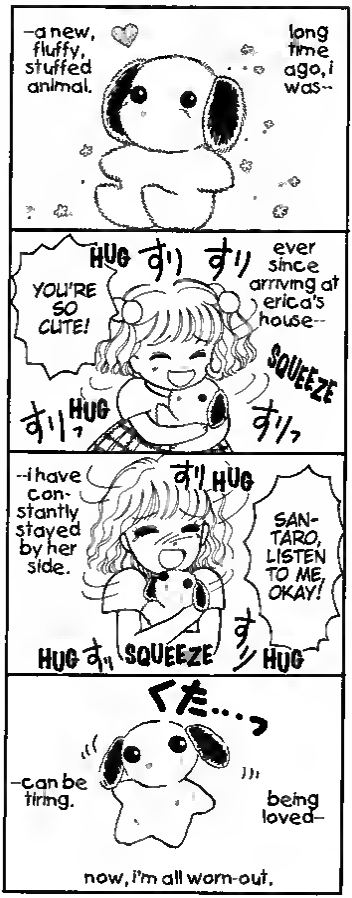

《To be continued in... ♥ Just A Girl Book 2》

# I'm Just a Doll!

## Family

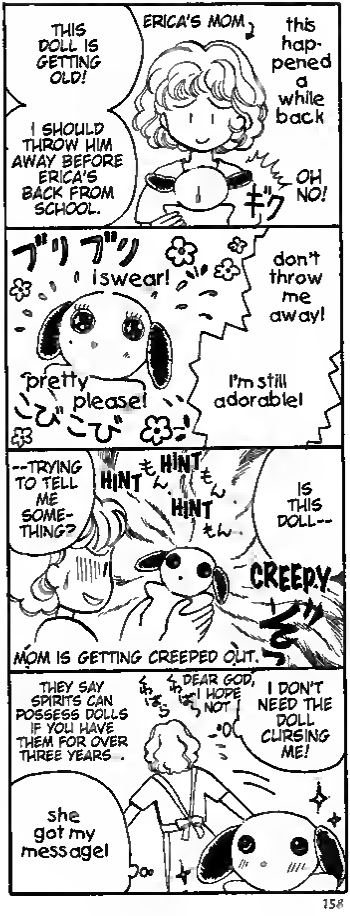



## Santaro's Secret Tale

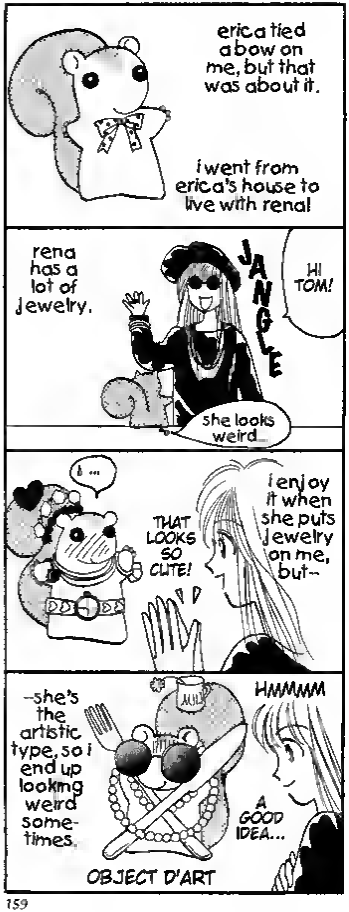


## Erica's Love

## I May Not Be Able to Speak, But...

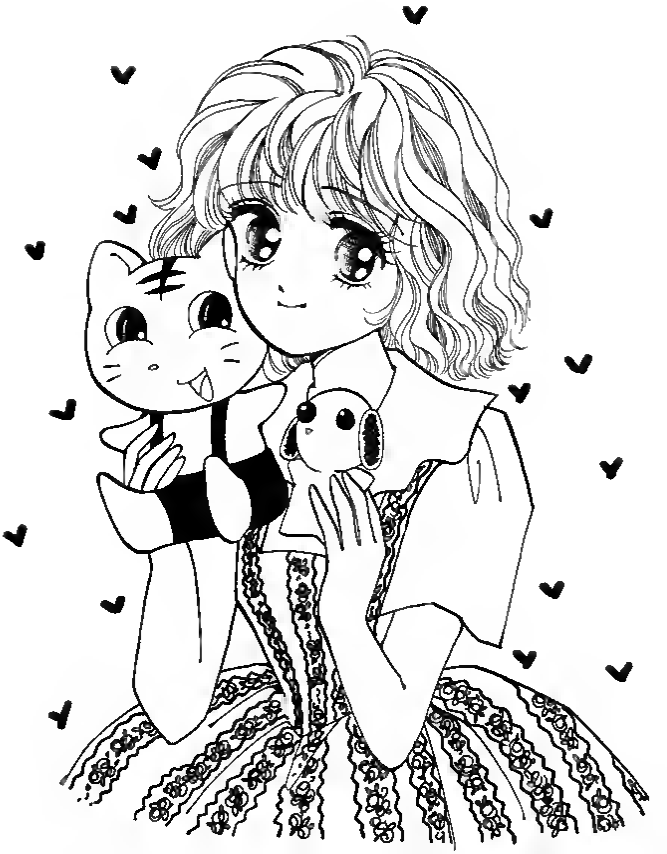

THIS DOLL IS GETTING OLD!
I SHOULD THROW HIM AWAY BEFORE ERICA'S BACK FROM SCHOOL.
ERICA'S MOM
this happened a while back
OH NO!
ブリブリ
I swear!
don't throw me away!
pretty please!
I'm still adorable!
--TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING?
HINT
もん
IS THIS DOLL--
CREEPY
MOM IS GETTING CREEPED OUT.
THEY SAY SPIRITS CAN POSSESS DOLLS IF YOU HAVE THEM FOR OVER THREE YEARS.
DEAR GOD, I HOPE NOT
I DON'T NEED THE DOLL CURSING ME!
she got my message!

## Tom the Fashionista


erica tied a bow on me, but that was about it.
i went from erica's house to live with rena!
rena has a lot of jewelry.
JANGLE
HI TOM!
she looks weird...
i enjoy it when she puts jewelry on me, but--
THAT LOOKS SO CUTE!
-she's the artistic type, so i end up looking weird sometimes.
HMMMM
A GOOD IDEA...
OBJECT D'ART

## Rob's Tragic Tale

my sister, star, went to live with erica.
HERE YOU GO, KIDS!
i'm rob, minoru's father bought me.
WOW!
INTRODUCING MINORU'S DAD
star "how are you, rob?"
rob "you're lucky. you were adopted by a girl."
"boys are so rough. i don't get hugs."
THAT'S THE TOY I BOUGHT FOR HIM!
"however, the dad likes me."
HUG
YUCK!

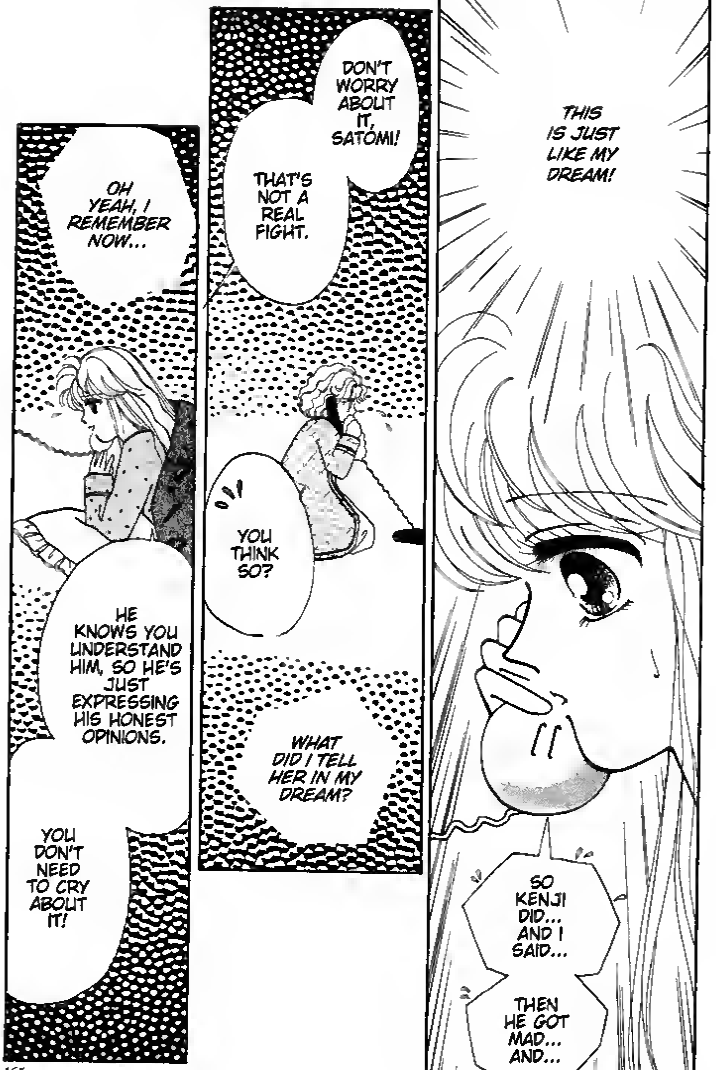


ASK MY DREAMS!

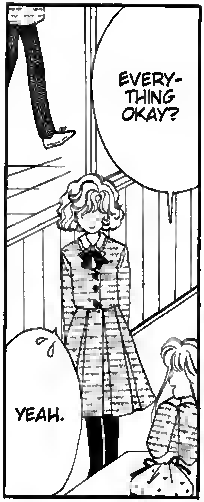
HOW DARE YOU!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
フン
HUFF
RRRRR....
WE GOT INTO A FIGHT.
I GOT UPSET, AND HE GOT MAD AT ME!
NATSUMI, KENJI'S SUCH A JERK!

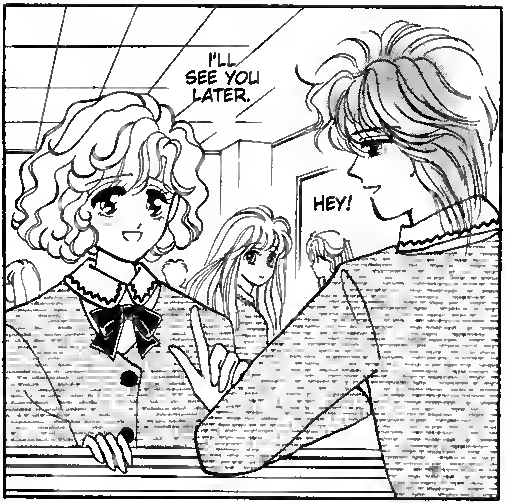
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, SATOMI!
THAT'S NOT A REAL FIGHT.
WHAT IF HE BREAKS UP WITH ME?
THAT WON'T HAPPEN.
HE KNOWS YOU UNDERSTAND HIM, SO HE'S JUST EXPRESSING HIS HONEST OPINIONS.
YOU DON'T NEED TO CRY ABOUT IT!
YOU THINK?
RRRR

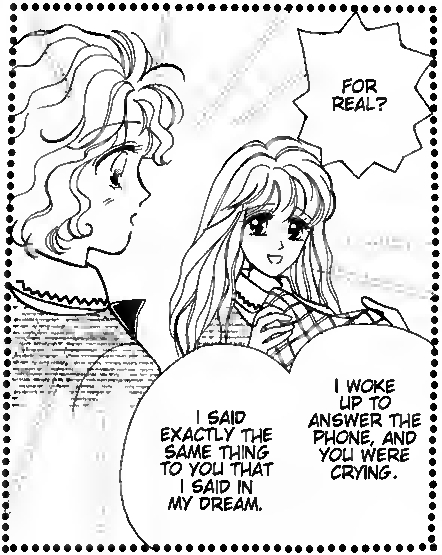
WAKE UP
BRRR...
BRRR...
YAWN
ONLY SATOMI WOULD BE CALLING ME SO LATE...
HELLO.
WE JUST GOT INTO A FIGHT OVER THE PHONE.
NATSUMI, KENJI'S SUCH A JERK!


THIS IS JUST LIKE MY DREAM!
SO KENJI DID... AND I SAID...
THEN HE GOT MAD... AND...
WHAT DID I TELL HER IN MY DREAM?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, SATOMI!
THAT'S NOT A REAL FIGHT.
YOU THINK SO?
OH YEAH, I REMEMBER NOW...
HE KNOWS YOU UNDERSTAND HIM, SO HE'S JUST EXPRESSING HIS HONEST OPINIONS.
YOU DON'T NEED TO CRY ABOUT IT!

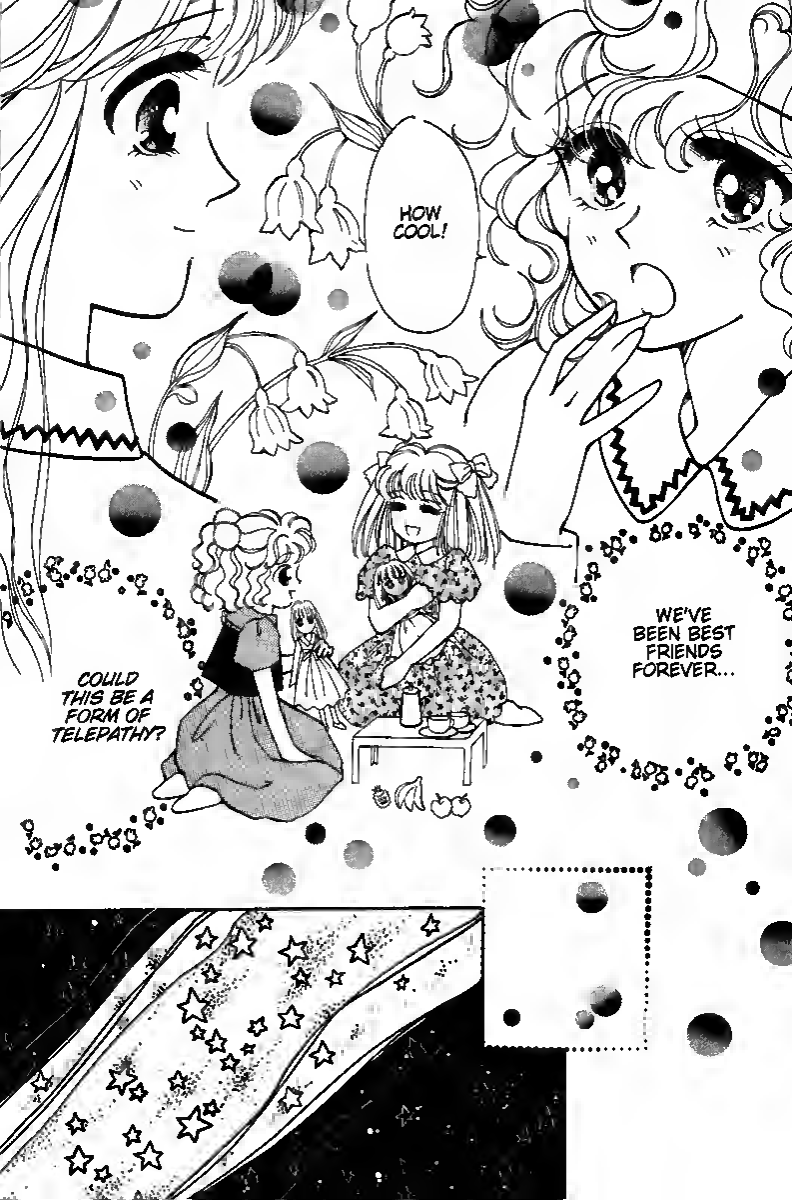
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! NO MORE CRYING, GOT IT?
SORRY FOR CALLING SO LATE. WERE YOU ASLEEP?
OKAY.
THANKS, NATSUMI. YOU ALWAYS MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
GOOD NIGHT! SEE YOU TOMORROW!
I HAD A PSYCHIC DREAM!


EVERY-
THING
OKAY?
YEAH.


I'LL
SEE YOU
LATER.
HEY!

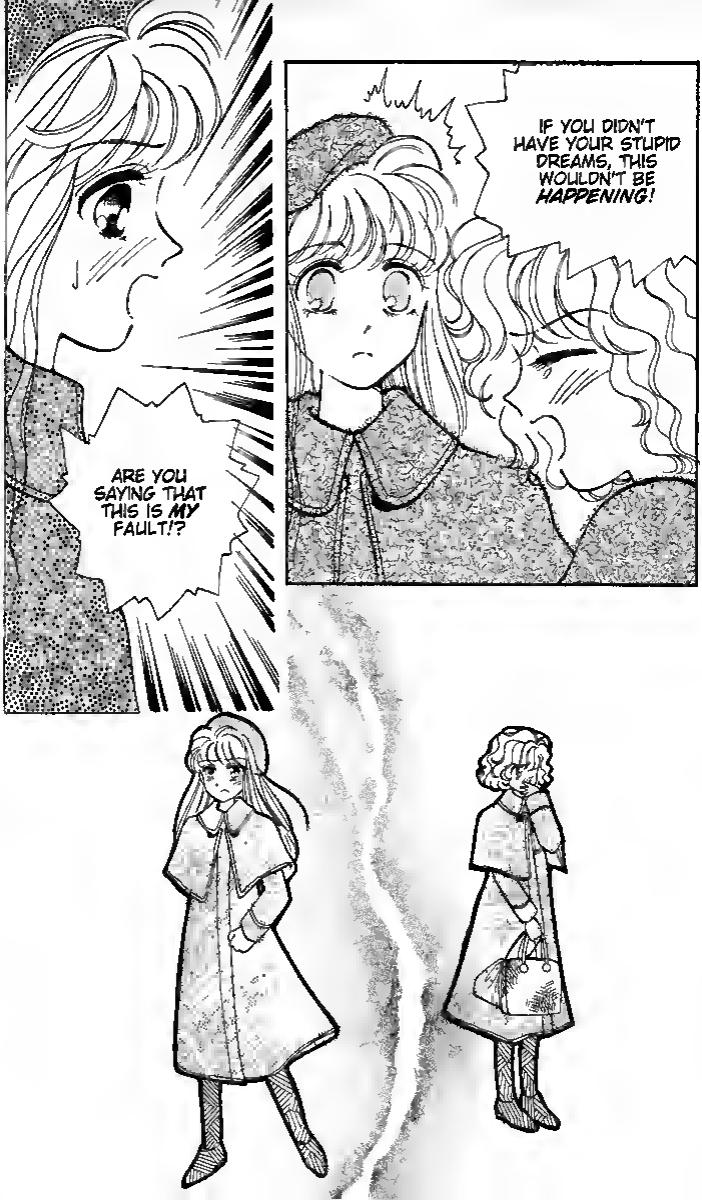

FOR
REAL?
I SAID
EXACTLY THE
SAME THING
TO YOU THAT
I SAID IN
MY DREAM.
I WOKE
UP TO
ANSWER THE
PHONE, AND
YOU WERE
CRYING.

I
DIDN'T
TELL
YOU,
BUT I WAS
DREAMING
THAT
YOU WERE
CALLING
ME IN TEARS
LAST
NIGHT.


HOW COOL!
WE'VE BEEN BEST FRIENDS FOREVER...
COULD THIS BE A FORM OF TELEPATHY?

KENJI!!
DON'T DO THINGS TO MAKE SATOMI CRY, YOU JERK!
NATSUMI, KENJI'S A CREEP!
HE SAID HE WAS GOING OUT WITH THE GUYS, BUT HE WAS ON A DATE WITH ANOTHER GIRL!

I KNOW...
I HAD A DREAM ABOUT THAT.
BUT...


IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE YOUR STUPID DREAMS, THIS WOULDN'T BE HAPPENING!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS IS MY FAULT!?

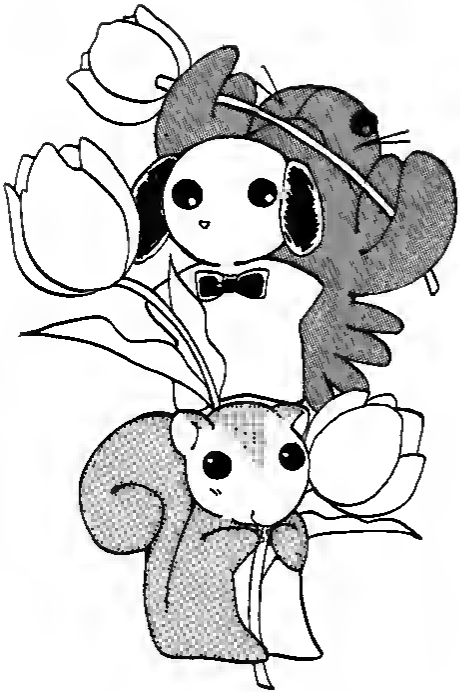
WHAT'S UP!
ACTUALLY, MY DREAM DIDN'T STOP THERE.
AFTER WHAT SHE SAID, I'M NOT TELLING HER THE REST OF MY DREAM!
HER!? SHE'S MY FRIEND'S GIRLFRIEND!

SATOMI'S ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A BABY.
SHE GETS UPSET AND CRIES SO EASILY.
IT'S GOTTEN WORSE SINCE SHE GOT A BOYFRIEND! SHE'S SUCH A BRAT!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
SATOMI, ARE YOU STILL PISSED OFF AT ME?
YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T WALK ME HOME, BUT I SAW YOU WITH ANOTHER GIRL!

HER!? SHE'S MY FRIEND'S GIRLFRIEND!
NATSUMI, NATSUMI!
I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT I SAID.
ACTUALLY, KENJI WAS JUST...

I THINK GOD'S SENDING ME--
--THESE DREAMS TO HELP ME BE A SUPPORTIVE FRIEND.
YOU NEED TO TRUST KENJI A BIT MORE.
HEY!!

IT'S YOUR TURN. DREAM OF ME HOOKING UP WITH A SWEET GUY, OKAY?
I'LL TRY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I NEED TO TRUST YOU MORE.
THE END

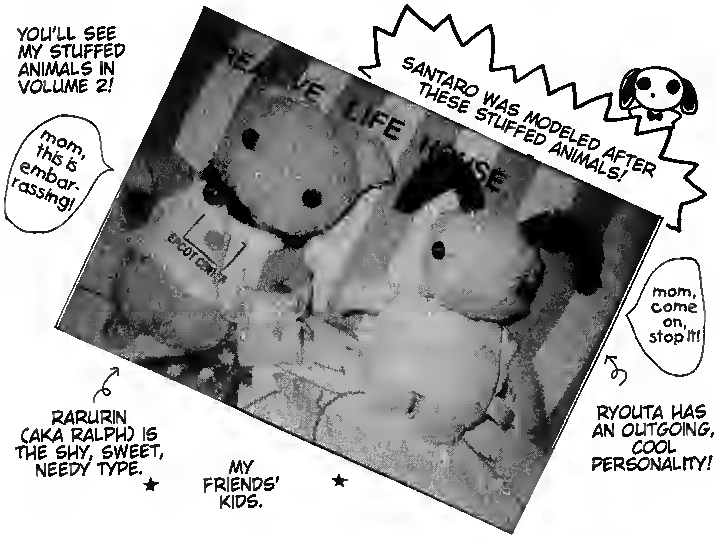


♥ A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL MY READERS!

FRIENDSHIP IS THE THEME BEHIND BOTH "I'M JUST A GIRL" AND "ASK MY DREAMS!" "ASK MY DREAMS!" IS ACTUALLY BASED ON A TRUE STORY. SOMETHING EXTREMELY SIMILAR HAPPENED BETWEEN MY FRIEND AND I. I DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO HAVE PSYCHIC DREAMS, BUT BOTH MY BEST FRIEND AND MY MOTHER HAVE THEM ON OCCASION . IT SCARES ME A BIT (LAUGHS). IF YOU ARE STRESSING OVER FRIENDS, I WANT YOU TO JUST KEEP TRYING, LIKE ERICA DID. I'VE HAD TIMES WHERE I HAD A TOUGH TIME MAKING NEW FRIENDS. AFTER I STARTED TO FOCUS ON BEING A GOOD FRIEND INSTEAD OF MAKING FRIENDS, MY LIFE CHANGED AND I EVENTUALLY FOUND A LOT OF WONDERFUL FRIENDS.

PEOPLE SAY THINGS LIKE "I CAN NEVER BE FRIENDS WITH GIRLS," OR "IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A GUY AND A GIRL TO BE JUST FRIENDS." I THINK PEOPLE MAKE THOSE ASSUMPTIONS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THEY JUST HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED CERTAIN TYPES OF FRIENDSHIPS. I THINK I WOULD BE DEAD WITHOUT MY FRIENDS, BOTH GUYS AND GIRLS...

EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET ALONG WITH YOUR CLASSMATES RIGHT NOW, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY FIND A FRIEND ONE DAY. INSTEAD OF BEING PESSIMISTIC, CHANGE YOUR FOCUS. WORK ON YOURSELF SO THAT YOU HAVE GOOD QUALITIES THAT WILL MAKE OTHER PEOPLE WANT YOU AS A FRIEND. MAYBE TRY OUT MY TECHNIQUE. INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR PEOPLE TO APPROACH YOU, TAKE THE FIRST STEP AND START TALKING TO PEOPLE YOU FIND INTERESTING (I LIKE CHATTING WITH GIRLS)->LAUGH<-. WELL, I HOPE YOU ENJOYED MY STORY!


YOU'LL SEE MY STUFFED ANIMALS IN VOLUME 2!
mom, this is embarrassing!
SANTARO WAS MODELED AFTER THESE STUFFED ANIMALS!
mom, come on, stop it!!
RARURIN (AKA RALPH) IS THE SHY, SWEET, NEEDY TYPE.
MY FRIENDS' KIDS.
RYOUTA HAS AN OUTGOING, COOL PERSONALITY!

I KNOW I'M NOT PROMPT ABOUT REPLYING TO FAN MAIL. I'M REALLY SORRY! TO THE FANS THAT HAVE SENT ME MULTIPLE LETTERS, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'M WRITING BACK TO YOU GUYS FIRST. IF YOU WOULD PREFER A REPLY SOONER THAN LATER, PLEASE KEEP WRITING ME!

I APOLOGIZE! I APPRECIATE EVERY SINGLE FAN MAIL. YOUR SUPPORT HELPS ME CONTINUE AS A MANGA ARTIST!

I'D LIKE TO THANK THE PEOPLE THAT HELPED ME!

MS. NORIKO KIMOTO, MS. HARUE MODEKI, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! MS. MAYURI YAMAMOTO, I ENJOY WORKING WITH YOU! BOW. MAYA SAKAMOTO, KARORIN MIZUNOMIKA, KUMI OKAMOTO, THANK YOU FOREVER. MU-CHAN AND SANAE, TOO! I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK MY EDITOR, SHIBATA MOMONGA, AND THE EDITORIAL STAFF.

Tigers of Punks

I HOPE I GET TO SEE TIGERS OF PUNKS PLAY AGAIN!

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!!!!

WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN MY NEXT MANGA! AGAIN, THANK YOU TO ALL MY READERS. I APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT! TOMOKO TANIGUCHI

Tomoko Taniguchi

Oct. 26, '91

# Artist's Biography

Tomoko Taniguchi was born in Hokkaido, the northernmost part of Japan. She spent one year in Ann Arbor studying English and she graduated from the English institute program at the University of Michigan.

When she returned to Japan, she entered a contest held by a monthly horror magazine that was looking for new cartoonists. She submitted a forty-page story and won first prize. It was her debut as a professional cartoonist.

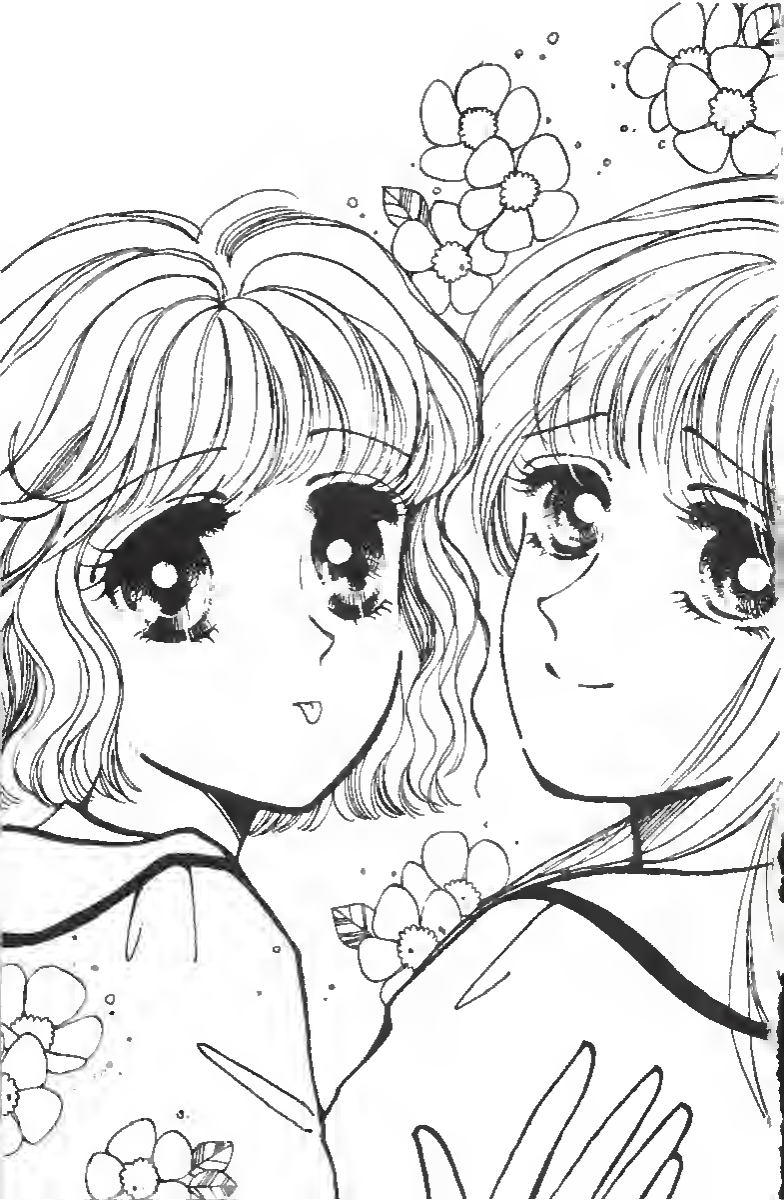
Her first shoujo story, *AN-PAN-BALANCE*, won another contest and was published in the monthly magazine *OMAJINAI COMICS*.

She has had a total of nine tankoubans (Japanese graphic novels) published under the MB (or My Birthday) Comics label in Japan, including *CALL ME PRINCESS*, *AQUARIUM*, *PRINCESS PRINCE* and *LET'S STAY TOGETHER FOREVER*. Tomoko has been published in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, the U.S.A. and Mexico.

She was a Guest of Honor at the 2003 Big Apple Anime Fest in New York City, where she had the chance to meet her many fans in person.

Fans of Tomoko can visit her official website at http://www.h6.dion.ne.jp/~tomoko-t/index.html. Get the latest information about Ms. Taniguchi, as well as shop for original art pieces. For those wishing to purchase Tomoko's original works of art, e-mail her at richtomo@h9.dion.ne.jp.

Tomoko hopes that her stories will make people feel happy because that makes her happy too.



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